

BELIEVE YOUR  
EYES  
PROVE IT TO  
YOURSELF ...  
YOU NEED  
**Konica**  
FILM



# ARAB TIMES

NEW

It's got everything you need  
from a Savings Investment.

- Allows easy conversion among accounts.
- Lets you earn higher interest.
- Provides free withdrawals and transfers.
- Does not require minimum balance.

THE BANK OF KUWAIT & THE MIDDLE EAST KSC

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1990/RAJAB 29, 1410 AH

24 PAGES 150 FILS

## Kuwait celebrates 29th National Day

'All hell broke loose': 'I saw a big fire like the sun'

# Syrians blast Cypriot ferry

Dead passenger just obtained emigration visa for Canada: 18 hurt

LARNACA, Cyprus, Feb 24, (Agencies): A Syrian gunboat fired 20 shells into a passenger ferry travelling between this east Mediterranean island and the Lebanese port of Jounieh today, killing one passenger, crew members said.

The attack wounded 18 passengers of the Baroness M, four critically, said a spokesman for the British bases on Cyprus.

The Royal Air Force evacuated 15 of the wounded by winch-

ing them aboard three helicopters several hours before the ship docked at Larnaca at 1 pm (1100 GMT), said the spokesman.

The wounded, most suffering cuts and burns in the legs from shrapnel, were rushed to local hospitals for treatment.

The dead man was identified as Nasr Abu Nasr, 26, who was going to Lebanon to pick up his pregnant wife because he had just obtained an emigration visa to Canada.

"He was hit by shrapnel all over his body," said 22-year-old Rima Suliman, a receptionist on the boat. "He was sitting facing the bar exactly where a shell hit."

One of the shells went through a window on the central deck housing the bar and the cafeteria, causing most of the casualties as passengers sheltered there. Shattered pipes throughout the vessel leaked water.

Military sources in Cyprus, said they believed the attacking gunboat

was Syrian.

Baroness M issued an emergency radio call saying "I have been attacked and bombed by a Syrian warship and I am on fire." There was no immediate reaction from Syria.

Greek Capt. George Samiotakis said the gunboat accosted the ship three separate times, starting around 4.30 am (0200 GMT), when it was 30 kilometers (19 miles) west of Jounieh.

Crew members said the gunboat fired warning shots over the ferry and then hailed it in Syrian-accented Arabic.

"They asked us who was on board and where we were going," said Egyptian mechanic Mohammed Al Mursadi, 27. He said he talked with them over the radio because most of the crew spoke only Greek or English.

"All hell broke loose," Samiotakis told reporters after the Baroness M returned to Larnaca.

Some of the 52 crewmen on the ferry identified the attacker as a Soviet-built Syrian OSA-class gunboat but Samiotakis did not confirm this.

He said the gunboat came alongside his 3,987-ton ferry, as it approached Jounieh north of Beirut at 4.40 am (0240 GMT) and fired in the air.

He turned the ship to head back to Larnaca but the gunboat followed and approached within 300 meters before opening fire without warning.

"Before I could stop the ship they opened fire," said Samiotakis, adding that the shooting continued for three minutes.

At least 16 shots slammed into the starboard hull, wrecking the saloon and cabins on the deck above.

"I saw a big fire like the sun, black smoke, people shouting and glass breaking," said one Lebanese passenger. "Everyone was on the floor. The man who was killed was sitting against the side and was hit in the head."

Samiotakis said the gunboat moved remained nearby after the shooting. Fearing further attack, his crew signalled it with white sheets.

The gunboat approached again and demanded that the ferry lower its vehicle ramp, presumably to check the cargo, which the captain said consisted only of five tonnes of medical supplies for Lebanon.

"I have no idea why we were stopped," Samiotakis said.

He said he saw no name or flag on the gunboat, which was about 40 metres long and carried torpedoes and cannon. He did not speak directly to the gunboat crew but Arabic speakers on the ferry told him the crew spoke for Lebanon.

"We will definitely be giving our brothers many weapons."



Up for sale

A young West German, dressed as an East German border guard, is selling uniforms of the East German border guards to tourists in East Berlin near the Reichstag building on Friday. (Reuter wire photo)

## Kashmiris armed

Indian troops kill 3 more

ISLAMABAD, Feb 24, (Agencies): The president of the Pakistan-controlled Azad Kashmir said today that Kashmiri have begun smuggling arms across the border to Muslim insurgents fighting for independence from India.

President Abdul Qayum, in an interview with the Associated Press, said the people of his state also have been sheltering insurgents since India launched a military crackdown in its state of Jammu-Kashmir on Jan 20.

More than 100 Muslim separatists have been killed in Indian side of Kashmir since the crackdown began. Protests continued today as tens of thousands of Muslims marched in several cities. Three people were killed today.

In a related development,

state-run banks in Pakistan's Azad Kashmir state have begun collections to help the uprising. During a three-day trip in the region last week, signs were seen in dozens of banks calling for donations for "a holy war against India."

Naveed Hussain, a state government spokesman, said that 100,000 rupees (about \$5,000) had been raised in a week and that the money would be used to train Kashmiri militia groups.

The head of the Pakistan-based Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front, a local activist group, said his organisation also was seeking funds and would soon begin smuggling weapons across the border.

"We will definitely be giving our brothers many weapons."

(Continued on Page 2)

## Greetings

Arab Times congratulates HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier, the government and the people of Kuwait on the 29th National Day.

On this occasion, today's Arab Times carries a six-page (11-16) special supplement on Kuwait.

## Cyanide alert at beaches

BRIGHTON, England, Feb 24, (AP): Authorities closed beaches along the Sussex coast in southern England today, less than 24 hours after they were reopened, when two containers of potentially lethal potassium cyanide washed ashore.

The public was barred from the beaches earlier in the week after six containers of potassium cyanide were found on Sussex beaches.

The containers are thought to have been part of a chemical shipment from Sheerness, on England's east coast, to Saudi Arabia which was washed overboard during recent heavy storms.

Brighton council warned the public to stay away from a 10-mile (16 km) stretch of the coast around Brighton after one container was washed up at nearby Hove and another was seen floating off Saltdean.

"We are continuing a thorough search, helped by the Sussex police helicopter."

Police have warned that if the containers leak the cyanide fumes could be fatal.

## Weather

FAIR weather with light variable and moderate westerly winds. Signs of texts to moderate. High of 12°C and 11.54 pm. Low of 6.19 am. Sun rise: 5.44 am. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 20°C 68°F. Almad: 18°C 64°F. Falak: 19°C 66°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 8°C 46°F. Almad: 11°C 57°F. Falak: 10°C 50°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 21°C 70°F. Almad: 18°C 64°F. Falak: 20°C 66°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 7°C 46°F. Almad: 50 per cent. Falak: 60 per cent.



The Baroness M pockmarked by shell holes. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Wield dollar weapon

Saddam call to Arabs

AMMAN, Feb 24, (Agencies): Iraqi President Saddam Hussein opened a four-day Arab summit today urging Arabs to pressure the United States by shifting billions of dollars of investments to Eastern Europe.

"Just as Israel uses interest groups to apply pressure on the American administration, there are hundreds of billions of dollars invested by Arabs in the United States and the West which could be used for this purpose," the Iraqi leader said.

"In fact, this investment could be converted to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and I believe it is a profitable investment, probably more profitable than in the West."

Saddam's comments came as the Arab Co-operation Council leaders formally opened their first anniversary summit, with speeches urging Arabs to adapt to the democratic changes sweeping Eastern Europe.

The leaders condemned Soviet

Jewish migration to Israel and vowed to prevent the superpowers imposing their will on the region.

"If we do not define our role in the world, others will define it for us," Jordan's King Hussein told fellow-leaders.

"There are those who want our region, our nation and our people to be on the periphery of the movement of history," he said.

"A new world order is emerging," based on economic and political blocs rather than on hegemony and the arms race, said Hussein, who last year began liberalising his own country's system.

He said Arabs can either "be part of the historic developments and employ them to enhance their existence, stability and growth, or... be on the periphery... and so become an easy prey that is mercilessly leached and discarded."

The Jordanian and Iraqi leaders

are conferring with Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh a year after founding the council, aimed at promoting economic co-operation.

The leaders, who arrived yesterday, were scheduled to hold talks together with their prime ministers and foreign ministers today and tomorrow, as well as to hold private talks at the newly renovated Hashemite palace west of Amman.

Mubarak, whose country is involved in US-backed Arab-Israeli peace efforts, urged the superpowers to help solve the conflicts pitting Arab against Israeli, Iraq against Iran and Lebanon against Lebanon.

He also said his country would "defend the rights of the Arabs against any attempt to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab lands, including Arab Jerusalem."

(Continued on Page 8)

## NEWSWATCH

"If I were Gorbachev... Solidarity leader Lech Walesa says Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev should disband the Soviet Union and start all over again."

His union's daily Gazeta Wyborcza quoted him on Saturday as saying: "If I were Gorbachev, I would dissolve the Soviet Union as soon as possible and try to integrate all the republics in a new federation based on partnerlike relations."

He made the remark in response to a question at a news conference in the Baltic port of Gdynia on Friday. (Reuter)

Saudi Arabia bans British beef: Saudi Arabia on Saturday banned British cattle imports because of the outbreak of "mad cow" disease in Britain, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

"We have informed the Ministry of Trade... of the ban on importing British cattle until they are proven free of 'mad cow' disease," SPA quoted a statement by the Ministry of Water Resources and Agriculture as saying. (Reuter)

Kremlin appeals for calm: The government on Saturday appealed for calm and restraint at pro-democracy demonstrations and rallies scheduled for Sunday and warned that agitators who provoked

violence would face harsh penalties.

The government appeal was carried on the front page of all national newspapers and broadcast on the hourly news broadcasts of Radio Moscow, a day before the planned rallies that could attract millions of people nationwide. (AP)

Spanish police seize hashish: Spanish police said on Saturday they had seized 575 kg (1,260 pounds) of hashish hidden in a haystack and detained two Spaniards and a Moroccan in connection with the haul. (Reuter)

Girl found with grandparents: Seven-year-old Hilary Foreman, the American girl whose mother spent more than two years in jail rather than let her visit her father, is living with her grandparents in New Zealand, police said on Saturday.

Detective chief inspector Roger Carson of Christchurch said the girl has been living with her mother's parents in the city for three years and is in good health.

Curfew imposed on Jhang: The western Punjab city of Jhang was put under indefinite curfew on Saturday following violence on Friday on the assassination of a Sunni leader in which one person was killed and 19 others injured. (Kuna)

## Singer Vaughan enters hospital

LOS ANGELES, Feb 24, (UPI): Jazz great Sarah Vaughan has been hospitalized for treatment of a cancerous tumour on her right hand, officials at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre said.

Vaughan, 65, was first treated for the problem at Cedars-Sinai in June 1989 and has been in and out of the hospital at least three times for additional treatment, hospital spokesman Ron Wise said.

Vaughan has been diagnosed with "synovial sarcoma," which Wise described as "a kind of cancer involved in soft tissues."

(Continued on Page 8)

Details inside page

ARAB TIMES



## 10th Gulf Football Championship Competition

First Prize  
Toyota Corolla

and many other prizes



TOYOTA COROLLA 1.3 LITRE ENGINE

PRESENTED BY:

Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est.



# Reform drive in Shangrila

## Defies parallels with upheavals anywhere else

KATHMANDU, Feb 24. (Reuter): Nepal, where at least 11 people have died this week in a campaign for multi-party democracy, defies parallels with upheavals anywhere else in the world.

While the people of Eastern Europe have shattered the communist monolith, the people of Shangrila are still requesting their absolute monarch to consider reform.

"He is not Ceausescu," one middle-class moderate said of King Birendra.

He meant that the Eton and Harvard-educated king is no dictator in the style of Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu, executed by firing squad two months ago.

The irreverence of contrasting a Romanian peasant's son with a monarch who ruled by Hindu divine right could come as a shock only in Nepal.

King Birendra, 44, granted the current partyless political system by grace and favour. He is above the constitution and remarks deemed to undermine the monarchy may earn a long jail term.

Politicians, whose parties have been banned for 30 years, have taken the risk and are now in jail, under house arrest or in hiding.

Their demand is a constitutional monarchy. Only one of eight small communist factions is pressing for a republic.

Nepal, closed to the world against the colonialism and industrial revolution of the 19th century, opened its doors to the 20th in 1951.

Many still see the monarchy as the bulwark of a country landlocked by the world's two most populous nations, China and India.

"The troubles in our history have come at times when the king was weak. Nepal takes this very seriously. We must have a strong king," said another well-educated Kathmandu resident.

He went on to hint that the king had obligations rather than divine rights.

Most allegations against the palace are still levelled in a code which blames corruption on the bureaucrats and the shooting of demonstrators on the government.

This is partly because the mystique surrounding the royal court leaves even diplomats somewhat baffled by the nature and extent of the king's official role of "active leadership".

Communist activist Harish Chandra Acharya was less circumspect. "All the money is going into the coffers of the

princes and princesses," he told reporters, referring to the foreign aid that props up Nepal's economy.

Lack of popular support for Acharya's ideology has pushed Nepal's communist factions into unprecedented accord with the Nepali Congress Party in the democracy campaign.

Some diplomats believe there is still scope for King Birendra to divide and rule by winning over Congress Social Democratic to a reformed version of his panchayat system of councils elected from local to national level.

Many in Kathmandu express sympathy for the government's argument that a multi-party system would be vulnerable to foreign influence — Congress from its big brother in India, the communists from China.

# Nepal arrests doctor after bullet revelation

## Opposition parties plan 'black' protest

KATHMANDU, Feb 24. (Agencies): A Nepalese medical professor has been arrested after he alleged that police were using fragmentation bullets against pro-democracy demonstrators.

Family sources said Professor Mathura Shrestha, head of community medicine at Kathmandu's teaching hospital, was arrested at his home late last night.

Earlier Shrestha had helped to organise two protests against the death of at least 11 people this week in clashes between police and protesters demanding open political activity in the Himalayan kingdom.

Shrestha said that all the cases he saw were from the town of Bhaktapur near Kathmandu, where there were major clashes on Monday.

On Friday morning, Shrestha was among teaching hospital staff who held a two-hour protest on the campus against this week's deaths.

Later he had been in a human rights delegation which went to protest to Prime Minister Manohar Singh Shrestha against alleged police excesses and mistreatment of detainees.

Political parties have been banned in Nepal since 1960 but have gone on functioning informally and have achieved unprecedented unity in their campaign for multi-party democracy.

State-run Radio Nepal warned Nepalis tonight "to be on alert" against destructive activities which it said communists planned for Sunday.

The democracy campaigners have called for peaceful demonstrations in the capital Kathmandu to protest against this week's killings.

Pamphlets circulated in the city by banned political parties say that demonstrators will wear black arm bands and carry black flags as a sign of mourning.

The radio's Nepali-language evening news broadcast, quoting Interior Ministry sources, said the government was aware of plans for disruption and is determined to deal with them in accordance with the law.

Senior politician Tanka Prasad Acharya, a former prime minister and advocate of legalisation of political parties, yesterday put forward a five-point proposal to solve the present political crisis.

Acharya called for the formation of a government with opposition representation which will conduct the proposed general elections in April-May 1991.

The proposal says, the opposition should be permitted to contest that election on the basis of their party manifesto and identity.

Should the multi-party advocates win the elections, Parliament will declare a multi-party system of government for the kingdom. Should they lose, a formal opposition bench would be allowed.

## Kashmiris pray for freedom'

(Continued from Page 1)

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry has denied that Pakistan is training and arming the separatists. Last week, Pakistan troops closed one border post to civilians after Indian troops killed several Pakistani students on Feb 11. The students wanted to cross into India in solidarity with the separatists.

A Defence Ministry spokesman also said the military would not allow Kashmiris to smuggle weapons across the border, although he acknowledged that the mountainous, 1,400-km (840-mile) long border was impossible to patrol effectively.

"We don't care what happens to India and Pakistan," said the Kashmiri president. "We are tired of this situation."

Qayyum, 66, is reputed to have fired the first shot in 1948 that triggered the first war with India over the rugged territory.

"It is our basic commitment to the people across the border to liberate them," Qayyum said. "We are providing them with all facilities — hospitals, places to stay. As yet we officially are giving them no military aid but as the situation escalates we won't be able to stop it."

A Pakistani army captain in Kashmir said private smugglers currently were moving small arms, especially Chinese-made AK-47 automatic weapons, into India. But officials fear that when the Himalayan mountain passes open summer, heavier arms will make it into India.

Hundreds of thousands of Muslim separatists in Kashmir prayed today for the success of their independence campaign and three people were killed when troops fired on a group of protesters.

Police said people were killed when troops fired at protesters in Khrew village, 23 km (14 miles) south of Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.



Rajiv propped up

Supporters of Rajiv Gandhi hold aloft a cut-out of the former Indian prime minister at an election rally he was addressing in Mumbai. Rajiv was on a tour of Bombay and other adjoining states campaigning for his Congress (I) Party in the Feb 27 Indian states assembly elections. (Reuter wirephoto)

## 5 killed in pileup

100 cars involved

FRANKFURT, Feb 24. (AP):

At least five people were killed and about 50 injured in a pileup involving more than 100 cars on the main highway between Frankfurt and Munich today.

Police said the pileup was caused by fast driving in foggy conditions. There are usually no speed limits on West German autobahns and deadly pileups are frequent.

"There are wrecked cars all over the place, the injured are bleeding and screaming. It looks like a slaughterhouse," said a police officer in Aschaffenburg, just south of Frankfurt.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

The pileup occurred on the stretch of the highway between Aschaffenburg and Wuerzburg.

Police said about 20 people suffered serious injuries. Seven hospitals in the area were treating the injured.

Rescue vehicles had trouble reaching the area because of the crowded highway, police said.

There was heavy traffic on the highway this morning because of a short holiday marking the carnival season.

"The visibility was poor but as usual drivers did not adjust their speed to the conditions and drove too fast," said another police spokesman.

## INTERNATIONAL

# US custody fight girl found in NZ

Hilary living with her grandparents

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, Feb 24. (AP): Seven-year-old Hilary Foretich, the American girl whose mother spent more than two years in jail rather than let her visit her father, is living with her grandparents in this New Zealand city, police said today.

Detective chief inspector Roger Carson of Christchurch said the girl has been living with her mother's parents here for three years and is in good health.

He said Hilary is the subject of a New Zealand family court order issued yesterday. "As a result of that order Hilary is now in the custody of her grandparents and there will be a further hearing in the family court in Christchurch next week," Carson said. He did not elaborate.

Hilary's mother, Dr Elizabeth Morgan, a plastic surgeon, was jailed for failing to obey a judge's order to produce the child. She accused the father, Dr Eric Foretich, of sexually abusing Hilary.

Foretich, a 46-year-old oral surgeon, had offered a \$50,000 reward to anyone

who could find his daughter. He has denied ever abusing the child.

Morgan, 42, was released from jail in Washington, DC, in September after President George Bush signed a law limiting civil contempt in district of Columbia child abuse cases to 12 months.

Police here would not confirm reports that both parent were en route to New Zealand.

They said Hilary is believed to have been attending a private Christchurch school while living with her grandparents, who he said are seeking an injunction to prevent Foretich from taking the child out of New Zealand.

Robert Callard, the US consul in the New Zealand capital of Wellington, said today he knew papers had been filed in Christchurch but was unsure who had filed them.

Callard said the embassy's only role was to make sure the child is protected and that a country tries to take her out of the country. He said that if a New Zealand court ordered the embassy not to issue the child a passport, the embassy could comply, but it had not received that instruction.

Morgan and Foretich met in 1981, married in January 1982 and separated in August of that year, about a week before Hilary was born. In 1983, the divorced couple sued each other for custody of the child. In January 1985, Morgan took legal action to stop Foretich's access to Hilary after making the sexual abuse allegations.

Morgan's lawyer, Stephen H. Sachs, was quoted in the Washington Post newspaper's Saturday edition as saying, "Elizabeth is going to do whatever she possibly can do to protect her daughter."

Elizabeth is confident that the courts of New Zealand will protect Hilary, and Elizabeth will go to New Zealand as soon as (DC Superior Court Judge Herbert B. Dixon gives her back her passport, which we've requested several times, and we'll renew the request on Monday."

Asked if those were the feelings of the president, Fitzwater said, "Those are universally held feelings by everyone who has ever dealt with the legal establishment."

Asked why he was "lawyer-bashing," Fitzwater, a recent law school graduate dismayed by legal costs, said: "Oh, I think every one ought to take every opportunity to blast lawyers."

"I hear that kind of thing 3,000 times a year," said Lewis Colless, Dean of Kent College of Law at Illinois Institute of Technology. "Lawyer-bashing is one of the longest-standing pastimes in the country."

"People always feel their own lawyer is competent, able, reasonable and just," said American Bar Association President Stan Chavkin. "It's the one on the other side who's the dog—the one with the shifty eyes who asks the mean questions."

Bush told medical experts at Johns Hopkins University that doctors fearing lawsuits too often dictated treatment that was unnecessary.

Dr Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.



Youngest mom

Thirteen-year-old Iwona poses with her one-year-old daughter, Agnieszka for photographers on Feb 23. Iwona, who goes to the 9th Form in a small village near Jelenia Gora, is the youngest mother in Poland. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Gen. Gavin dies

### World War II veteran

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (AP): Retired Lt. Gen. James M. Gavin, the "jumping general" of airborne troops in World War II and an early critic of the Vietnam war, died yesterday, the Defense Department said last night.

Spokesman Maj. Bill O'Connell said Gavin, 82, died at a nursing home in the Baltimore area.

O'Connell said he had no further details.

Gavin served with the 82nd airborne division and jumped with the troops in Sicily, the Normandy Invasion and, as its Commander, at Nijmegen in the Netherlands in the American contribution to the ill-fated "bridge too far" allied assault to expel the Germans from the Netherlands in September 1944.

Known for accompanying patrols with a carbine on the front lines, Gavin wore the two stars of a major general when he was 37, one of the youngest men ever to hold the rank.

Gavin served as ambassador to France twice under President John F. Kennedy and later was chairman of Arthur D. Little Co., the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based management consulting firm.

Born in New York City, he enlisted in the army in 1942 and won appointment to the US Army Military Academy at West Point the following year, where he would arise at 4 am to get in extra studying time in the latrine. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1949.

In the war, he won the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the distinguished Service Cross, and was awarded the distinguished Service Order by Britain and the Croix de Guerre and the Legion of Honour by France.

Gavin was head of research and development for the army in 1958 when he retired at a relatively young 51 — still with 30 years in — to be able to critique then-President Dwight Eisenhower's "more bang for the buck" defence policy, which believed placed dangerously excessive reliance on nuclear weapons and slighted conventional forces.

"I won't compromise my principles and I won't go along with the Pentagon system," Gavin said on his retirement.

Balladeer not expected to live

## Johnnie Ray in coma

LOS ANGELES, Feb 24, (AP): Fifty balladeer Johnnie Ray, known as the "Prince of Wails" for his vocal histrionics on such songs as "Somebody Stole My Gal," "Just Walkin'," "Rain," was in a coma yesterday with liver failure.

Ray, 63, was not expected to live, according to a statement issued late Thursday by Alan Eichler Associates, a public relations firm.

Ray, whose condition deteriorated steadily since he entered Cedars-Sinai Medical Center Feb 16, slipped into a coma Thursday with total liver failure, said hospital spokesman Ron Wise. The spokesman described his condition as grave.

The once slender, boyish singer was credited with revolutionising popular music in the early 1950s with his unique blend of rhythm and blues, country and gospel punctuated with raw and soulful singing.

Some said his raw and emotional style opened the door to a new type of music that later became Rock 'n' Roll.

Ray's first hit record was "Cry," followed by "The Little White Cloud That Cried," "Please Mr. Sun," "Brokenhearted," "What's The Use," "Somebody Stole My Gal," "Who's Sorry Now," and "Yes Tonight Josephine."

Ray was also a movie actor, and Co-starred with Ethel Merman, Dao Dailey, Marilyn Monroe, Donald O'Connor and Mitzi Gaynor in "There's No Business Like Show Business."

## Capitol lashes out at lawyers

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (Renner): White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater hit out at America's lawyers yesterday, saying they "deserve all the criticism they can get" and that no one should miss an opportunity to "blast" lawyers.

But some of the 700,000 US lawyers hit back, one saying that "lawyer-bashing" was a long-standing US pastime.

Fitzwater's remarks at a news briefing followed a speech by President George Bush in Baltimore on Thursday in which he denounced the increase in medical malpractice lawsuits in the United States. Asked if Bush was criticizing lawyers, he said, "lawyers certainly deserve all the criticism they can get."

Asked if those were the feelings of the president, Fitzwater said, "Those are universally held feelings by everyone who has ever dealt with the legal establishment."

Asked why he was "lawyer-bashing," Fitzwater, a recent law school graduate dismayed by legal costs, said: "Oh, I think every one ought to take every opportunity to blast lawyers."

"I hear that kind of thing 3,000 times a year," said Lewis Colless, Dean of Kent College of Law at Illinois Institute of Technology. "Lawyer-bashing is one of the longest-standing pastimes in the country."

"People always feel their own lawyer is competent, able, reasonable and just," said American Bar Association President Stan Chavkin. "It's the one on the other side who's the dog—the one with the shifty eyes who asks the mean questions."

Bush told medical experts at Johns Hopkins University that doctors fearing lawsuits too often dictated treatment that was unnecessary.

Dr Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after her picture was shown on the British Broadcasting Corp. TV talk show "Kilroy" late last year.

Foretich had appeared on the show discussing child custody battles.

Morgan has vowed that she would go without seeing her daughter until the girl turned 18, if necessary to protect her.

She has married a Federal Appeals Court Judge Paul R. Michel, since she was released from jail.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Times of London reported on Tuesday that the deputy headmistress at Beechfield College, a private girls' school at Plymouth in southwest England, recognised Hilary as a former pupil after

# UN goals set to fight drugs

'Funding is scarce'

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 24, (Agencies): Reflecting a sense of urgency in the war against drugs, the international community put the narcotics menace high on the world's agenda but failed to say where the money would come from.

After a four-day special session by some 50 cabinet-rank ministers, the UN General Assembly yesterday adopted an ambitious plan designed to tackle every phase of the \$500 billion international drug trade.

"We resolve to protect mankind from the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances," the six-page declaration says.

The plan's recommendations to governments and international bodies cover all aspects of the drug trade: cultivation of the coca and poppy fields that provide the raw material for cocaine and heroin, processing, trafficking, demand, money laundering and the rehabilitation of addicts.



Mourners thronged charges to pay their last respects to Duarte (shown above). (Reuter wirephoto)



Duarte is shown in his hospital bed as he is visited by the then-president Ronald Reagan and vice-president George Bush. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Salvadorans mourn Duarte

Funeral today

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, Feb 24, (AP): Hundreds of mourners, many of them poor, thronged to a church to pay their last respects to former President Jose Napoleon Duarte, who struggled to bring democracy to El Salvador but was unable to stop its prolonged civil war.

Duarte died at his home yesterday after a long battle with cancer. He was 64.

Two of Duarte's six children, Alejandro and Napoleon, accompanied by leaders of his Christian Democratic Party, carried his flag-draped coffin to the Don Bosco church in the densely populated, blue collar Sao Miguelito neighbourhood in northeastern San Salvador.

Military schoolcadets escorted the procession.

About 500 mourners, many carrying flowers, awaited them at the church, where his body was to lie in state until his funeral on tomorrow. Tentative plans were for a mass to be celebrated at the same church, followed by burial at the Gardens of Memory cemetery.

Hundreds of mourners outside the church blocked streets and police cordoned off the area from traffic. Many, who arrived early were women from the city's public markets.

"Duarte was everything for us, the women of the markets, for all the poor. In our hearts, engineer Duarte has not died. For us he will live forever," said one woman trying to reach the coffin. She asked not to be identified.

US and regional leaders praised Duarte's dedication to democracy. "President Duarte was the father of Salvadoran democracy, a dedicated servant to the people of El Salvador, and a firm friend of the United States," US President's spokesman Mario Fitzwater said from Washington.

The White House said Vice President Dan Quayle will lead the US delegation at Duarte's funeral.

US Secretary of State James Baker said, "There could be no more fitting tribute to his memory than for his countrymen to follow his lead and to ensure that human rights and democratic institutions grow and strengthen in the country he loved so deeply and to which he gave so much."

Duarte was born in San Salvador Nov 23, 1923, the second of three sons of a tailor father and dressmaker mother.

He graduated in 1948 from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, with a degree in Civil engineering, married childhood friend Luis Duran, and worked in his family's construction business.

A founder of the Christian Democratic party, he served three terms as mayor of San Salvador. He was winning the presidential election in February 1972 when the army stopped the count and declared its candidate the winner.

He was arrested, beaten and told he would be shot after he supported a failed coup attempt a few weeks later.

Recent public opinion surveys have shown the

## Fair Nicaragua polls seen

Voters in a position to decide, say observers

MANAGUA, Feb 24, (AP): Key international observers say it appears Sunday's election will be free and fair, despite problems during the often-bitter campaign between the Sandinistas and an opposition coalition.

"I've given a lot of thought to how the system could be beat," said Elliott Richardson, head of the United Nations observer mission. "I haven't yet been able to come up with a good scheme."

A UN report released yesterday concludes that Nicaragua's 1.75 million registered voters "are in a position to decide between alternative which have been given a reasonable chance to be aired."

The campaign was not without problems, the report said, but it "has changed the way elections are perceived ... by redefining and considerably broadening the limits of political speech in Nicaragua."

The Organization of American States reached similar conclusions about the possibility of a fair election on Sunday, as did former US President Jimmy Carter, another prominent observer.

Carter is heading up a group of observers that includes five US senators and senior house members, three former US state governors, a prime minister and five former presidents from other countries.

"We will observe but only Nicaraguans can vote," Carter said, reading a statement in heavily accented Spanish. "Choose well, and we will work to ensure that the results reflect your decisions and are respected."

President Daniel Ortega's main challenger is publisher Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of the United National Opposition, a coalition of 14 parties and one native Indian group.

Carter, who observed the Panamanian election last year and announced the voting was marred by fraud while the ballots were still being counted, is regarded as one of the most influential observers.

Margaret Anstee, the British under-secretary general in charge of all UN drug activities, told a news conference the world body did not have enough funds to fulfil its current mandates on drug projects.

Forthcoming discussions in UN financial bodies "will be extremely important and for my money an indication of whether we really are being serious about this fight and the pivotal role of the United Nations," she said.

Goals

And the head of UNIFDACC, Italian jurist Giuseppe di Giacomo, told reporters that the world community had identified goals but once again failed to set priorities of "where we go first, where we hit first, who has to do this, when, how and with what means."

He believes field programmes, particularly in the remote Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent poppy growing areas of Asia as well as the Andes coca crop regions in Latin America, needed \$9 billion to be effective.

"This doesn't mean lack of assistance for the rest of the world but we have to start somewhere," he said, estimating that 90 per cent of the world's drug problems were connected to what happened in these areas.

Initiative

The session was held at the initiative of Colombia whose government is under attack by murderous drug gangs.

The political declaration proclaims the period from 1991 to the year 2000 as the UN decade against drug abuse, to be devoted to national, regional and international programmes.

This includes a possible shake-up in the UN's three drug-fighting agencies together with proposals for allocating more money and staff and greater use of the world body as a clearing house for information and technical assistance.

The so-called "global programme of action" called for states to give "higher priority" to prevent and reduce drug abuse "with a view to eliminate the illicit demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" at the national as well as international levels.

The United Nations should act as an "advisory centre" for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and experience in the field of demand reduction.

Most UN specialised agencies, including the UN Children's Fund, the UN Development Programme, the World Health Organisation and the International Labour Organisation, are asked to get involved in information and educational programmes.



Nicaraguan opposition presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro (right) greets former US president Jimmy Carter at her home. (Reuter wire photo)



Four-year-old Caritos Solis Lopez sits with his puppy outside his house decorated with the Sandinista poster. (Reuter wirephoto)

## US goes slow on Nicaragua ties

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (AP): The White House was urged yesterday to "go slow" on normalising relations with Nicaragua in the event of a Sandinista victory, with two prominent observers citing the possibility for fraud in tomorrow's election.

US Sen. Richard Lugar and Allen Weinstein, president of the independent monitoring organisation the Centre for Democracy, said Nicaragua is issuing a teletype system to transmit voting results that opens opportunities for the Sandinistas to engage in fraud.

Weinstein also complained that the leftist Sandinista government has blocked delegations from Honduras and Costa Rica that were to join the

centre's observation efforts at tomorrow's election.

In addition, Weinstein said the government has barred observers from the centre from going in and out of precincts to watch the vote count; has denied visas for additional staff members in the centre's Managua office and has denied visas for two dozen US democratic and republican political leaders to join its monitoring operation.

More than 1,000 international election observers have flooded the country.

The centre monitored elections in Panama and the Philippines and has been in Nicaragua since April at the invitation of both the Sandinista government and the main political opposition group.

Lugar was named by President George Bush to head a bipartisan congressional team of election observers, but Managua denied them entry on the grounds that they represented a government that supports the opposition.

The leader of Nicaragua's rebel military forces predicts the nation's Sandinista government will remain in control no matter what the outcome of tomorrow's election.

The opposition coalition UNO is given little hope of ousting the 11-year-old Sandinista government, but even with an upset victory UNO would face difficulty overcoming "an armed party," as Israel Galeano called the Sandinistas.

The Nicaraguan government has previously said it is not supplying weapons to the leftist guerrillas fighting to topple the US-backed government in El Salvador. Ortega has signed a regional accord pledging not to provide such aids.

Police chief Carmelo Rolon told the government news agency Telenam that a dozen false alarms were called in beforehand with the apparent intent a dispersing his forces.

Twenty people were arrested, including six children and four women, Telenam reported, and quick police action stopped another attempting to loot his forces.

In a separate incident, about 50 people looted a food store in San Miguel de Tucuman, capital of that northcentral province, the news agency Diarios Y Noticias reported.

Therapists are an apparent reaction to runaway inflation, which rose 79.2 per cent in the month of January alone.

President Carlos Menem said in a news conference Friday that "the situation is under control."

He warned, however, that "bunker is hitting the Argentine community and making it desperate."

He said "agitators were contributing to the looting."

Provincial towns that had reported student riots earlier in the week were calm yesterday as Venezuelans prepared for a four-day carnival despite the threat of renewed violence.

Students leaders at Caracas's Central University said that they had no protests prepared during the carnival period, lasting through next Tuesday, traditionally a period for family holidays to the country.

Earlier in the week, students in at least seven provincial cities burnt tires and ransacked trucks to protest economic conditions, namely a planned rise in gasoline prices.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 11 US soldiers die in Panama

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (UPI): Eleven US soldiers on a night training mission in Panama were killed when their two helicopters crashed during heavy thunderstorms, the Pentagon said yesterday. It was the deadliest US army accident in two years.

The two helicopters disappeared Wednesday when they and two others on a night training mission ran into severe thunderstorms and turned to return to base at Fort Kobbe, said a Pentagon spokeswoman, Army Maj. Kathy Wood.

The wreckage of the first helicopter, an OH-58 observation craft, was found Thursday near Punta Diego, about 50 miles (80 km) southeast of Colon and the Atlantic entrance to the Panama Canal. The two men aboard were identified as the pilot, warrant officer James

Carl, who was assigned to Fort Kobbe as part of the US Southern Command in Panama, and Capt. Richard Tyndall of the 7th infantry division from Fort Ord, California.

Yesterday searches found the wreckage of the second helicopter, a UH-1H troop-carrying "Huey" in dense jungle a few miles southwest of the first helicopter, Wood said.

"There were nine people aboard, no survivors," Wood said. They included four crew members and five passengers — all US soldiers.

Identifiers of the second group were not being released pending notification of relatives.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, Wood said, although early indications were that the helicopters went down separately in bad weather.

They were identified as the pilot, warrant officer James

Carl, who was assigned to Fort Kobbe as part of the US Southern Command in Panama, and Capt. Richard Tyndall of the 7th infantry division from Fort Ord, California.

Yesterday searches found the wreckage of the second helicopter, a UH-1H troop-carrying "Huey" in dense jungle a few miles southwest of the first helicopter, Wood said.

"There were nine people aboard, no survivors," Wood said. They included four crew members and five passengers — all US soldiers.

Identifiers of the second group were not being released pending notification of relatives.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, Wood said, although early indications were that the helicopters went down separately in bad weather.

They were identified as the pilot, warrant officer James

Carl, who was assigned to Fort Kobbe as part of the US Southern Command in Panama, and Capt. Richard Tyndall of the 7th infantry division from Fort Ord, California.

Yesterday searches found the wreckage of the second helicopter, a UH-1H troop-carrying "Huey" in dense jungle a few miles southwest of the first helicopter, Wood said.

"There were nine people aboard, no survivors," Wood said. They included four crew members and five passengers — all US soldiers.

Identifiers of the second group were not being released pending notification of relatives.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, Wood said, although early indications were that the helicopters went down separately in bad weather.

They were identified as the pilot, warrant officer James

Carl, who was assigned to Fort Kobbe as part of the US Southern Command in Panama, and Capt. Richard Tyndall of the 7th infantry division from Fort Ord, California.

Yesterday searches found the wreckage of the second helicopter, a UH-1H troop-carrying "Huey" in dense jungle a few miles southwest of the first helicopter, Wood said.

"There were nine people aboard, no survivors," Wood said. They included four crew members and five passengers — all US soldiers.

Identifiers of the second group were not being released pending notification of relatives.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, Wood said, although early indications were that the helicopters went down separately in bad weather.

They were identified as the pilot, warrant officer James

Carl, who was assigned to Fort Kobbe as part of the US Southern Command in Panama, and Capt. Richard Tyndall of the 7th infantry division from Fort Ord, California.

Yesterday searches found the wreckage of the second helicopter, a UH-1H troop-carrying "Huey" in dense jungle a few miles southwest of the first helicopter, Wood said.

"There were nine people aboard, no survivors," Wood said. They included four crew members and five passengers — all US soldiers.

Identifiers of the second group were not being released pending notification of relatives.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, Wood said, although early indications were that the helicopters went down separately in bad weather.

They were identified as the pilot, warrant officer James

Carl, who was assigned to Fort Kobbe as part of the US Southern Command in Panama, and Capt. Richard Tyndall of the 7th infantry division from Fort Ord, California.

Yesterday searches found the wreckage of the second helicopter, a UH-1H troop-carrying "Huey" in dense jungle a few miles southwest of the first helicopter, Wood said.

"There were nine people aboard, no survivors," Wood said. They included four crew members and five passengers — all US soldiers.

Identifiers of the second group were not being released pending notification of relatives.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, Wood said, although early indications were that the helicopters went down separately in bad weather.

They were identified as the pilot, warrant officer James

Carl, who was assigned to Fort Kobbe as part of the US Southern Command in Panama, and Capt. Richard Tyndall of the 7th infantry division from Fort Ord, California.

Yesterday searches found the wreckage of the second helicopter, a UH-1H troop-carrying "Huey" in dense jungle a few miles southwest of the first helicopter, Wood said.

"There were nine people aboard, no survivors

## Conflict persists over role of Mary

WASHINGTON, Feb 24. (UPI): Lutheran and Catholic theologians said yesterday they remain sharply split over praying to the Virgin Mary and the saints, although seven sets of talks on the emotional issue did yield some progress.

"It has been a long and difficult round," said Archbishop William Stafford of Denver, Colorado, who chaired the Catholic side at the theological dialogue. "We addressed some neuritic (pointless) doctrinal differences that will not be easily resolved."

The 20-member group issued a 223-page report, "the one mediator, the saints and Mary," summing up the agreements and continuing disagreements of the eighth round of the official US Catholic theological dialogue.

The talks are aimed at assessing the possibility of unifying the two faiths, which split in the early 16th century.

Of all the joint dialogues between Catholics and Lutherans since the second Vatican council ended 25 years ago, the discussion of Mary and the saints reaches deepest into the piety and worship styles of the grass roots of the two dominations.

While acknowledging some progress was made in understanding the divisions in the honour and piety due Mary and the saints, as well as whether she can be invoked as mediators or intercessors in prayer, the church leaders and theologians said "substantive" differences remain.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX declared as a basic article of faith the Immaculate Conception — the idea Mary was born without the taint of the original sin of Adam and Eve. In 1950, Pope Pius XII declared the Assumption of Mary — the belief Mary did not die as other mortals do, but "was assumed body and soul into the glory of heaven."

The theologians also said they could reach agreement on the substantive issue whether invocation of saints is legitimate and beneficial. While Catholics often direct prayers to the saints, asking their intercession with God, Lutherans believe Christ is the only channel to God "the one mediator."

On that point, the statement said, "Catholics deny that the practice of praying to the saints in and of itself is idolatrous or injurious to the honour of Christ the one mediator, even though the practice must be protected against abuse."

### Trying to recreate the drink of ancient Egypt

# Brewers seek Pharaoh's beer secret

LONDON, Feb 24. (AP): British brewers and archaeologists are trying to rediscover the secrets of a lost art from one of the world's first civilizations — beer-making in ancient Egypt.

News of the three-year project, launched by a leading British brewery and the nation's prestigious Egypt Exploration Society, drew tantalizing headlines in London newspapers yesterday.

"Brewers seek the Pharaohs' secret," said one. "Explorers seek the recipe for Tutankhamen's beer," boasted another.

The Independent called it one of the first

large scale research projects to be undertaken jointly by archaeologists and a commercial British company.

While the constituents of the beer have been determined and other information about it assumed, the brewery will try to reproduce it at its laboratory in the Scottish capital Edinburgh.

But Jim Mervington, corporate affairs director for Scottish and Newcastle Breweries Plc, told a news conference Thursday in Edinburgh: "It is highly improbable it will appear on the bar (in British pubs) but it is not beyond the realms of pos-

sibility."

He said the project will be based largely on archaeological excavations at Tell El Amarna, one of Egypt's ancient capitals 190 miles (300 km) south of Cairo.

Archaeologists from the society led by its field director, Barry Kemp of Cambridge University, are investigating a royal brewery there attached to a temple built by Queen Nefertiti.

She was the leading wife of King Tutankhamen's father, the Pharaoh Akhenaten, or Akhmenaten or Ikhnaton as his name is sometimes spelled.

Tutankhamen reigned from 1360 to 1350 BC. His tomb was discovered in the Valley of the Kings at Luxor in 1922. His solid gold coffin and other fabulous treasures found inside captured the imagination of the world.

Mervington said Nefertiti's temple, each side of which measures 250 yards (228 m), had its own brewery and bakery for making beer and bread for religious festivals. Both processes employ yeast.

But it is not known what the beer tasted like. Ancient texts and wall paintings sug-

gest there were several different beers, ranging from thick gruelly ales to those of a finer texture.

Wall paintings from Tutankhamen's day depict courtiers vomiting after getting drunk on beer. Another wall painting shows Nefertiti pouring her beer through a strainer to remove lumps of gruel.

Mervington said Scottish and Newcastle's own scientists would subject minute traces of the beer the team hopes to find to chemical testing to try to ascertain its taste and consistency.

Researchers on the project will also examine ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, tomb models and written material for clues to making the beer.

Kemp told the Edinburgh news conference in Thursday: "The (Egyptian) pyramids were built (by the labourers) on a diet of bread and beer, with bakeries and breweries operating together. The ancient Egyptians baked a kind of bread first, then used it as a mash from which to brew the beer."



Bathers take advantage of unseasonably warm weather in France to take a quick swim in the Atlantic Ocean at Biarritz. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Spring has sprung

LONDON, Feb 24. (AP): Daffodils are blooming and fruit trees are budding as England enjoys the warmest February since the American revolution, and the fifth-warmest winter on record.

Yesterday's high of 18.5 degrees centigrade (65 Fahrenheit) tied a record for the date, and the coldest temperature all winter was 2.8 degrees C (37 F) on New Year's day.

"If you ask me if there is a greenhouse effect — it hasn't been proved to my satisfaction, but if this is what it's like, then I'm all for it," said Ken Graves, secretary of the Royal National Rose Society.

Outside Graves' office in the quiet cathedral town of St Albans, 20 miles (30 kilometres) north of London, buds are forming on a climbing tea rose and on a Giloire de Dijon rose, and a bit of colour is already pecking through.

Those who believe that global warming has arrived will note that last winter was even warmer in England. Sceptics might note that the winter of 1986 was just as warm, and that Thursday's high temperature was matched in 1961.

The average temperature in central England this month has been 7.5 degrees C (45 F), 4 degrees C (7 F) warmer than normal and the hottest February since 1779, when the average was 7.9 C (46 F).

There have been four warmer winters since England started keeping records in 1659, said Barry Parker of the meteorological office.

This winter's average temperature of 6.3 degrees C (43 F) since Dec 1 has been exceeded only in 1834, 1859, 1975 and 1989.

"I would much prefer a good hard frost for several days," Parker said. "There will be plagues of things going around my garden in summer. Warm winters have brought a garden pest population boom."

The mild winter has thrown the seasons out of sequence. Daffodils are already blooming in some gardens.

"There are some varieties flowering rather precociously," said Jim Pearce, president of the Daffodil Society.

"There's a variety named 'February gold' — I think it was rather optimistically named, because

### Linked to carbon dioxide

## Global warming

NEW YORK, Feb 24. (AP): Global warming over the past 30 years is almost certainly related to buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, as one might expect if the greenhouse effect were responsible, a statistical analysis says.

But the study cannot prove that the gas buildup caused the warming, researchers cautioned.

Many scientists are concerned that continued buildup of carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere may lead to global warming that could alter climates. The atmospheric process is known as the greenhouse effect.

But researchers disagree over whether gas buildup has caused any detectable warming yet.

The new statistical analysis is presented in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature by Cynthia Kuo, Craig Lindberg and David Thomson of AT & T Bell Labs in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

Their work used observations of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations taken monthly since 1958 at the summit of Mauna Loa in Hawaii. The values are typical of measurements made at several sites, the researchers said.

The compared the concentrations to monthly averages of global temperature from 1958 to 1988 and found a strong statistical relationship between short-term fluctuations in the two trends.

The chance of such a relationship arising simply by chance is only about 2 in 1 million, the researchers said.

That means "there is probably some physical link" between the two trends but "there's no way to say which is causing which," Lindberg said in an interview.

Some third factor, such as increased energy output from the sun, may be causing both observed trends, he said.

The analysis found that changes in carbon dioxide concentrations lagged behind those in temperature by five months.

this is only the second time anyone can remember it flowering in February," he said in a telephone interview from his home in Cokethorpe in eastern England.

Warm weather may be a problem for some of the hundreds of flower shows held around the country, usually in April, Pearce said. "If they are already daffodils, they're not on a safety lead, are they?"

The Royal Horticultural Society has an early show April 3-4, and its main daffodil show on April 25.

■ Rome registered its warmest February day in more than 200 years yesterday and the premature spring extended over most of the peninsula, including Alpine region.

Weather officials said it was even 11 degrees (52 F) at 2,000 metres (6,560 feet).

Snow was fast melting on ski slopes, the majority of which only opened last week because of lack of any earlier significant snowfalls.

## 16 years for drunken-driving

CARROLLTON, Kentucky, Feb 24. (AP): A man convicted of killing 27 people in the nation's worst drunken-driving accident has been sentenced to 16 years in prison. He could be eligible for parole in eight years.

Carroll county circuit judge Charles Satterwhite denied yesterday a defense motion to place Larry Mahoney on probation, and instead imposed the sentence recommended by the jury that convicted Mahoney on Dec. 21.

As Mahoney's relatives wept, Satterwhite said the community would "stand for probation in such a serious crime. Probation, he said, would "unduly deprecate the seriousness of the offence ... the number of lives lost."

### Want to immigrate to Canada

No investment or transfer required before obtaining immigration visa.

For business, contractors, engineers, senior employees. You are invited to discuss your request personally with the General Manager, Mr. Nabil Saheb at Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on 10, 11 & 12 March 1990.

For appointments please contact the hotel directly on (2422055) or the head office of CIC in Montreal.

CIC - Canada Immigration & Investment Consultants  
CP Box 197, Montreal, Quebec, Canada - H2W 2M9  
Tel: (514) 843 3172/843 7261, Fax: (514) 843 6773 Tlx: 05561786



## Human gene therapy to be tried

BETHESDA, Maryland, Feb 24. (UPI): Scientists sought permission yesterday for the first attempt at human gene therapy — research that will involve children stricken by a rare, inherited immune disorder that has forced some to live in plastic bags.

In a proposal filed with federal review committees, National Institutes of Health researchers said they want to correct the children's illness, caused by the failure of a defective gene to make a vital enzyme, by inserting correct copies of the gene into their white blood cells.

If approved by the review panels and the Food and Drug Administration, the gene therapy effort headed by Drs W. French Anderson and Michael Blaese could begin this summer.

The project would mark the first time researchers have transferred a gene into a human in hopes of treating a disease. Another NIH researcher, Dr Steven Rosenberg, is currently transferring genes into humans to track the effectiveness of an experimental cancer therapy, but those genes are not used for treatment.

The disease targeted for the first human gene therapy trial is a severe immunodeficiency caused by the lack of an enzyme called Adenosine Deaminase (ADA). The enzyme shortage leads to destruction of the immune system, and in the past some affected youngsters were forced to live in sterile, plastic bubbles to shelter them from infectious microbes.

Now, most children with the disorder either receive weekly injections of the missing enzyme or undergo bone marrow transplants. Neither treatment is perfect, and the children's lives are still often shortened by infections.

In their request, Anderson and Blaese propose to use a crippled mouse virus to insert the ADA gene into a type of white blood cell, called T-cells, that have been removed from the child's body and been stimulated to multiply.

Once the new gene is in place, the cells would be returned to the children by blood transfusion, where it is hoped they would produce a steady supply of the missing enzyme. Because T-cells do not live more than a few months, patients would probably have to receive repeat infusions of genetically engineered cells.

We get to the point of the first human gene experiment, there has to be a spirited public discussion. We need to figure out how to properly regulate this in the long term."

Rifkin voiced no immediate objections to the NIH researchers plan, noting it does not involve one of his major concerns — genetic tinkering with human eggs or sperm.

### Dracunculiasis

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported yesterday its adoption together with 23 most affected African and Asian countries of a programme to eradicate the water-borne parasitic disease of dracunculiasis.

WHO said the programme defines criteria for certified elimination of the affliction, country by country, by the year 2000.

Also called guinea-worm or medina-worm disease, dracunculiasis affects an estimated 5 to 10 million people in remote rural areas and is spread by water contaminated with a small crustacean known as cyclops.

About one year later, adult worms up to one metre long emerge through the skin and victims often are unable to walk, work or go to school.

"Fortunately, transmission of this disease can be prevented relatively easily, by motivating inhabitants of endemic regions to filter their drinking water through a clean cloth or to boil it before use," WHO said.

## Medical file

**Refocus of health efforts urged:** One quarter of all adults who die of avoidable diseases are killed by tuberculosis, which is gaining ground again because of its interaction with the AIDS virus. It was reported in Stockholm, Sweden.

Drugs are a bigger problem. Third World countries than the West.

Twenty-eight percent of all cigarettes consumed in the world are smoked in China. In the industrial countries, one death in 10 can be traced to smoking.

The report and other findings about health issues were released Friday after a two-year study by an international commission that recommends global emphasis on health research be shifted to the Third World.

The commission, headed by Rockefeller Foundation Chairman John R. Evans of Canada, included eight experts from developing countries. Swedish Nobel laureate Sune Bergstrom and former Japanese Foreign Minister Saburo Okita.

"We have found a gross mismatch between the burden of illness, which is overwhelmingly focused on the health problems of the industrialized countries," concluded the \$1.5-million study.

The commission claimed independence from any international agency and was created by its 16 sponsors, which included private foundations as well as the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

The report said only 5 per cent of the \$30 billion allocated annually on health research is spent in the Third World, while most premature deaths — 93 per cent if measured in potential years of life lost — were in developing countries. (AP)

**L-tryptophan manufacturers sued:** A woman who became paralysed after taking the dietary supplement L-tryptophan has filed suit against two manufacturers and the health food store where she purchased it, her lawyer said Friday in Trenton, New Jersey.

Nancy Dickson, 27, is now a patient at Thomas Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia, lawyer Steven Blader said. She is seeking damages for her medical expenses and pain and suffering, while her husband, Harry, 58, has sued for loss of consortium.

L-tryptophan, a naturally occurring amino acid that is used as a tranquilizer for insomnia and premenstrual syndrome, has been implicated in an outbreak of a rare blood disease, eosinophilia-myalgia

syndrome.

Dickson was diagnosed with the disease in December, several months after she became sick, Blader said.

Because the disease affects a victim's immune system, patients do not recover by stopping their use of L-tryptophan.

The defendants are Solgar Inc. and Wilner Chemists Inc., the New York companies that packaged the tablets Dickson took, as well as Olden Health Food Centre in Trenton and others, Blader said.

The Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta reports more than 1,200 cases of eosinophilia-myalgia syndrome associated with L-tryptophan and 15 deaths. Both researchers have not yet determined why the supplement is making people sick when it has been in use for years, said Dr Leslie Swigert, a medical epidemiologist at the centre. (UPI)

**Unmarked grave for organ donor:** Susan Sutton's heart defibrillator was given to a patient in Pennsylvania and her cornea to eye transplants.

Her bones will be used for reconstructive surgery and some of her skin will provide graft for victims of burns.

The rest of her body was to be buried this week in an unmarked grave.

Her mother, Judy Sutton of Moore

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Heavy water found:** Canadian police are investigating how radioactive heavy water got into a coffee room water cooler at a nuclear station where it is believed responsible for contaminating at least six employees, Canadian press reported yesterday.

Officials say sabotage at the point Lepreau nuclear plant in South-Eastern Canada has not been ruled out.

Two of the six employees were exposed to radiation equivalent to the acceptable annual dose limit, while the others had much lower levels, said a spokesman for New Brunswick Power, which runs the plant.

Spokesman Larry Boudreau said the radiation showed up in routine tests taken on Thursday. (Reuters) \*\*\*

**Wood penguins block airstrip:** Environmental activists lined up 50 wooden penguins across an airstrip at France's Antarctic station yesterday to dramatise their demand that construction of the strip be stopped, the Greenpeace Organisation said.

The Greenpeace activists said they successfully blocked off a section of the airstrip under construction at the Dumont D'Urville station. The organisation says the airstrip is being built on breeding sites of more than 6,000 penguins and 1,000 other birds.

The activists came from the Greenpeace Antarctic vessel Gondwanaland. They are asking France to stop work on the airstrip and to call a conference of scientists to assess the environmental impact of the construction. (AP) \*\*\*

**Belgium tax break:** Belgian ministers decided Friday to give tax incentives to motorists who buy small cars equipped with pollution-cutting exhaust systems.

The tax break applies to cars with an engine capacity under two litres which have three-way catalytic converters, the cabinet said in a statement. It takes effect on July 1.

Under European Economic community rules, all new cars with an engine capacity of under 1.4 litres will have to use converters after December 31, 1992. The new measures would encourage drivers to change to cleaner cars before then, the cabinet said. (Reuters) \*\*\*

**US mountaineers for Everest:** Mountaineer Jim Whittaker led a group of US climbers out of Seattle Friday en route to Asia, where they will join Soviets and Chinese in a joint "peace climb" of Mount Everest.

Members of the "peace climb" expedition include 11 US nationals, eight Soviets, including their team leader, Vladimir Sharayev, and eight Chinese climbers, who are led by Losang Dawa.

The climb will be the first ever united ascent of the world's tallest peak by mountaineers from the three nations.

The US group will stop first in Hong Kong before travelling to Beijing, where they will connect with climbers from China and the Soviet Union to make final preparations for their ascent of the 29,028-foot (8,847 M) peak. (UPI) \*\*\*

## Asia

**Burmese students charge Thailand:** The leading Burmese dissident student group has charged Thailand allowed Burmese troops to use Thai territory and possibly Thai ammunition for an offensive aimed at crushing insurgents fighting the military government.

All Burmese Students Democratic Front, in a statement received by United Press International on Thursday, said Thailand allowed Burmese troops to use Thai territory for attacks on three armed camps of the Mon and Karen minorities in the past two months.

The use of Thai territory allowed Burmese troops to capture two of the camps near the border it said. (UPI) \*\*\*

**Confidence plummets:** Confidence in Hong Kong's future plummeted after China announced its final plans last week for a constitution for the territory after 1997, according to a survey published Friday in Hong Kong.

The public opinion poll indicated confidence in Hong Kong has fallen even below the depressed levels of early June, when the British colony was traumatised by the violent crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Beijing.

Survey Research Hong Kong said its confidence index dropped to 79 in its telephone poll of 10,100 people Thursday, the lowest reading ever. (AP) \*\*\*

**Drug dealers sentenced:** A court in the central Chinese city of Xian has sentenced one man to death for dealing in drugs and given another man a life sentence, the official legal daily said Friday.

The report said 11 others were convicted of making and selling narcotics, but their sentences were not given.

Li said Wang Guizhu was given the death sentence for selling a total of 3,350 grams (7.4 pounds) of opium in nine occasions and selling 1,350 grams (3 pounds) of heroin he had made.

Lu Gaoyang sentenced to life in prison for selling 1,050 grams (2.3 pounds) of opium on three occasions and joining with Wang in producing 370 grams (13 ounces) of heroin, it said. (AP) \*\*\*

**Practice birth control:** Birth control is practiced by 88 percent of Chinese married women of child-bearing age, but poor-quality contraceptive devices lead to a high rate of unplanned pregnancies, a state family planning commission official said.

Zhu Yushan said 46 per cent of the 164 million women practicing contraception are now using intrauterine devices or IUD, the official China Daily reported Friday. She said female sterilisation, or tubal ligation, and vasectomies are the next two most common forms of preventing births. (AP) \*\*\*

## Africa

**Take glassnost to heart:** Tanzania's veteran Socialist leader Julius Nyerere called on his country to take glassnost to heart and said it could consider a multi-party political system, national media reported Thursday.

But he said Socialism would not be abandoned in Tanzania.

Nyerere, who was president of Tanzania for 25 years under a one-party system, and is widely regarded as one of Africa's most committed socialists, briefed media chiefs Wednesday on how it might be wrong to pursue the one-party system dogmatically.

Now chairman of the Socialist Party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), the 67-year-old former president said the lessons of Eastern Europe should inevitably have a bearing on Tanzania. (UPI) \*\*\*

**80 cholera deaths reported:** At least 80 people have died out of 906 reported cases of cholera in the Zambian capital and surrounding areas, it was reported Wednesday.

**Arany APRATHET:** A Cambodian government offensive spearheaded by Vietnamese troops, Soviet-built tanks and massive artillery barrages has overtaken 13 resistance bases so far and today headed for a major new target. That and resistance military sources said a halt in the shipment of Chinese arms made possible the government offensive.

In Phnom Penh, Prime Minister Hun Sen outlined a tough stance before peace talks due to start Monday in Jakarta, vowing his government will "maintain the status quo" until UN-supervised elections can be held.

Thai military sources at the border town of Aranyaprathet said Vietnamese and Cambodian troops led by



## Koop acquitted

Former Swiss justice minister Elisabeth Koop was welcomed upon leaving court yesterday in Lausanne where she was acquitted of charges of violating state secrecy. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Perrier in trouble

## Taken to court

BRIDGEPORT, Feb 24, (UPI): A federal lawsuit has been filed in Connecticut that could cost France's Perrier Co. millions of dollars for allegedly selling contaminated water knowingly, attorneys said yesterday.

The lawsuit seeks class-action status that could allow thousands of customers of Perrier throughout the United States to file claims, said Attorney Richard Bieder of Bridgeport.

Bieder said Perrier's actions in handling the contamination of millions of bottles of water was carried out with "deception and complete disregard" toward the public.

Their actions in allowing the public to believe their water was pure from the ground is without regard to the health concern of the American public," he said.

A spokeswoman at Perrier's US headquarters in Greenwich declined to comment on specifics of the lawsuit.

Cholera is an intestinal disease spread mainly by poor hygiene and sanitation.

Victims have been reported from as far away as 200 kms (125 miles) after the epidemic broke out in Lusaka early this month, Health Ministry officials said.

But a World Health Organisation spokesman, Dr Eric van Praag, told the Associated Press the disease was contained.

"There are cases still coming in from rural villages but the disease definitely declined," he said. "The situation is being contained and a smaller number of cases are appearing every day."

**Princess Anne tours:** Britain's Princess Anne, braving a sandstorm and searing heat, on Friday briefly shared the plight of refugees in camps in northern Senegal bordering Mauritania.

The princess listened to the stories of some of the 50,000 black Mauritanians who fled or were driven out of their country last year following ethnic riots in both West African nations. (Reuters) \*\*\*

## Latin America

**Ban on carnival nudity:** The League of Samba Schools has banned total nudity in Rio de Janeiro's famous raucous carnival, sparking furious protests from entertainers planning to offer exactly that to an estimated 80,000 spectators.

Glam organisers of the Beija Flor Samba School, who planned to present a dance entitled "everybody was born naked" detailing the evolution of man, said they would be particularly hard hit by the ban. (AP) \*\*\*

**Crime, inflation deter tourists:** With just two days to go before carnival begins officially, Rio de Janeiro's hotels, normally packed with tourists, are less than 80 per cent full and travel officials complain that crime and inflation are keeping tourists away.

Hotels are usually booked six months in advance during February as people from all over the world flock to Brazil's carnival capital to take part in the wild celebrations.

Last year about 100,000 tourists joined in the festivities, which range from all-night private balls to the high point of the celebrations on Sunday and Monday nights when the top Samba schools compete in a glittering parade of music and dance.

But this year travel agencies have reported a 20 to 40 per cent drop in the number of tourists arriving in Rio, said George Irwin, president of the Travel Agents Association. (Reuters) \*\*\*

**Proof about Roldos death demanded:** Ecuador on Thursday asked an American journalist to supply proof of his assertion the former Communist military强人, Manoel Antonio Noriega, was involved in a plot in 1981 to kill Ecuador's then-president Jaime Roldos.

The report by Seymour Hersh in the March edition of *Life magazine* quoted a former senior US government intelligence official as saying Noriega was involved in a scheme to kill Roldos, who died in a plane crash on May 24, 1981.

Ecuadorian President Rodrigo Borja, in a written message to reporters, said: "His statements have stirred up public opinion in Ecuador and my government has a firm intention in establishing the truth of the matter and contributing to the investigation."

**80 cholera deaths reported:** At least 80 people have died out of 906 reported cases of cholera in the Zambian capital and surrounding areas, it was reported Wednesday.

## Cambodian troops seize 12 rebel bases, key town in major offensive

about 20 Soviet-supplied tanks have captured 12 bases of the three-party resistance coalition as well as the key town of Svay Chek in the past four days of a major offensive.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front reported it had not received Chinese shipments in three months, and Prince Sihanouk's group also has reported shortages.

It was not known if supplies in the communist Khmer Rouge, China's main ally in the resistance coalition, had been affected.

Gen. Pan Thai, chief of staff of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, yesterday blamed the loss of the northwestern town of Svay Chek on the shortage of arms.

Thmar Puk district, captured by the resistance in

## Democracy going to dogs

## Drive against handicapped births

## Retarded cannot wed

BEIJING, Feb 24, (AP): The People's Daily is known for its sense of humour, as it proved yesterday with a scathing front-page report that American democracy is going to the dogs.

The Communist Party newspaper said the town of Sunol, California, had elected a dog as mayor.

"Western 'democracy' has reached such a peak of perfection that not only can one talk of 'democracy' between people, but 'democracy' between dogs and people," it said with heavy sarcasm. "There is no distinction between people and dogs ... no wonder some people prostrate themselves in worship of Western democracy."

The laugh may be on the People's Daily, however.

Sunol is an unincorporated town of about 400 people in Alameda county, about 40 miles (65 kilometres) southeast of San Francisco. It has no municipal government — and thus, no mayor.

However, some residents jokingly refer to a black mutt who wanders around the town, wearing a red bandana around his neck, as the "mayor." About 10 years ago, the dog, whose real name is Bosco, was elected to the non-existent position over two human candidates in a mock vote.

When Bosco turned up missing for a week in 1987, residents put up posters asking people to keep an eye out for "our friend and leader." He showed up a week later, wagging his tail and with a stick in his mouth.

Sunol actually is governed by the Alameda county board of supervisors.

The People's Daily published the attack one day after the Foreign Ministry lashed out at US criticism of its human rights record.

It also carried articles yesterday about the spread of AIDS and drug use in the United States, bolstering the official image of the United States

as an anarchic and degenerate society.

■ China's leading daily today described the "vast scene of stability and prosperity" in the Chinese territory of inner Mongolia, making an indirect comparison to the surge of

democratic activity across the border in Mongolia.

The People's Daily, in a front page article, praised the Communist Party and the local government for spreading the Marxist view of unity among all nationalities that comprise the motherland.

It did not mention whether mentally retarded couples would be subject to sterilisation, and officials contacted in Liaoning by telephone could not provide details of the regulations.

## Kaifu to meet Bush in March

TOKYO, Feb 24, (UPI): Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will visit President George Bush the first week in March to discuss trade and economic friction between the world's two largest economic powers, Foreign Ministry officials said.

President Bush called Kaifu yesterday and invited him to a summit in Palm Springs, California, on March 3-3 to exchange views on bilateral issues and the current international situation, the Foreign Ministry announced late today.

The US and Japanese leaders will focus on bilateral trade issues, defence and political reform. In Central Europe, the ministry said.

Kaifu will depart Tokyo March 2 for his second meeting with Bush as Japan's prime minister, after a scheduled policy speech at the Diet, Japan's parliament, the officials said.

He will quickly return to Tokyo on March 3 to attend Diet sessions. Kaifu held his first summit talk with Bush in Washington in September.

The meeting in Palm Springs follows intensive trade talks between US and Japanese high-level officials, which ended yesterday in Tokyo, and a visit by US Defense Secretary Dick Cheney.

Kaifu's Liberal Democratic Party was returned to power in elections earlier this month.

During the campaign, Washington had eased pressure on the party to rectify the massive trade imbalance of about \$59 billion between the two countries. But US officials said Kaifu's party is safely back in power, they are anxious for Japan to make substantial changes in its market and trade system to correct the imbalance.

Kaifu, preparing a list of candidates for his second government, is resolved to "eliminate" from the new cabinet politicians tainted with scandals, sources close to the premier said today.

Those who have been implicated in the financial Recruit scandal would be primarily targeted in the premier's purge.

Kaifu, one week after his Liberal Democratic Party's comfortable majority win in parliamentary elections, is busily contacting political leaders to pick up a new government lineup, the sources said.

Observers, meanwhile, said Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe is maneuvering to secure at least two senior positions for members of his wing of the party.

Former finance minister Kiichi Miyazawa, also a Liberal Democrat, appears to stand a slim chance for joining the new cabinet, after Kaifu selected one of Miyazawa's supporters, Mutsukatsu Kato, as chairman of the policy board.

To placate the Abe wing, the premier also chose Takuji Nishimura, as chairman of the general council, replacing Koichi Kato who was involved in the Recruit scandal, the sources said.

Police and customs officials in western Japan have arrested three Chinese and three Japanese for allegedly smuggling ivory into Japan from Taiwan valued at \$240 million yen (\$1.64 million US), an official of a local customs office said yesterday.

Seizure of the 11,991 items was the first known case of smuggling ivory into Japan since Japan joined an international ban on ivory trade last year, said Shigeru Kanazawa, spokesman of the Kohe Customs Office.

## \$680m Japan rice fund

TOKYO, Feb 24, (AP): If the ruling party has its way, Japan will buy millions of tonnes of foreign rice over the next five years, but not one grain of it will enter the country, officials said today.

Instead, the foreign rice would be distributed at an emergency agency.

Takashi Sato, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's comprehensive agriculture research commission, called for a five-year project to set up the rice fund and build storage facilities overseas for emergency food aid in case of natural disasters.

Starting in April 1991, the ruling party plans to build 100-billion-yen (\$580-million) fund within five years to purchase rice, mainly from the United States, Thailand and Singapore.

The plan calls for establishment of rice stockpiles in each country, filled with rice purchased by Japan, said Hajime Kondo, an aide to Sato.

He said the project is intended to get a message across -- Japan will buy rice and contribute to those suffering but will not import foreign rice for domestic consumption.

"We will never liberalise rice imports. We will never, ever allow a single foreign rice grain into our nation," Kondo said.

The government has budgeted 10 million yen (\$56,000) during fiscal 1990 for feasibility studies.

Sato's plan calls for foreign rice to be added to the list of items to be donated to countries requiring emergency support. The Japanese Red Cross society

# Soviets prepare for February revolution

## Pro-reform rallies planned for today

MOSCOW, Feb 24. (Agencies): Seventy-three years after the February revolution brought down the Tsars, Soviet authorities braced for a new surge of political activism unleashed by Kremlin reformers.

Big pro-reform rallies are planned for tomorrow in cities and towns across the Soviet Union's three most important republics, including the giant Russian federation.

Several old-line Communist Party leaders are expected to be swept from office in polls set for March 4 in Russia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia.

Adding to the pressure on the Kremlin, Lithuanians went to the polls today to elect a Parliament expected to move quickly to restore the republic's pre-war independence.

The statement, published on the front pages of the central newspaper today, also appealed to progressive forces not to disrupt the "normal working rhythm of the country."

Organisers have predicted half a million people will take part in the Moscow rally, with thousands more elsewhere.

The military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said today militia and Interior Ministry troops were patrolling the capital, with others held in reserve for rapid deployment.

On Friday, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov warned the nation the authorities would crack down hard on any troublemakers at the demonstrations — called to support pro-reform candidates in the coming polls.

"I think every person, every citizen in our country should stop for a moment and consider what is really happening here," Ryzhkov said in a televised appeal.

"To the wave of transformation sweeping across our country, we must learn to distinguish between what is positive and what is merely destructive."

Radical economist Gavril Popov, one of the organisers of the Moscow rally, told Reuters yesterday that violence could come from conservative forces opposed to Gorbachev's perestroika reforms.

"This is not at the highest level but somewhere just below. These people who are worried about losing power, who won't be around after (next June's) party congress," he said.

The Communist Party's policy-setting central committee and Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov earlier issued warnings of their own.

A Soviet official said top figures in his ministry were told at a special briefing yesterday that 8,000 special Interior Ministry troops had been flown in to Moscow where authorities expected 800,000 demonstrators.

He said senior ministry officials living in special privileged housing had been told to remain indoors tomorrow.

A student at a leading Moscow foreign affairs institute quoted a military instructor there as saying Moscow-based officers had been ordered to remain by their telephones during the rallies.

The reports could not be independently confirmed.

The big rallies reflect a remarkable acceleration of political activism in a once largely apathetic country.

In December, thousands of mourners flocked to the funeral of human rights campaigner Andrei Sakharov, setting the stage for a big pro-reform rally earlier this month at the foot of the Kremlin.

Organisers of tomorrow's rally had sought permission to gather again in the Manezh Square, just outside the Kremlin, but their request was refused by city officials.

Instead, the demonstrators will rally in a square on the city's ring road after assembling at two nearby points.

**Sakharov**

The late Andrei Sakharov, father of the Soviet human rights movement, has topped state founder Vladimir Lenin in a popularity poll published today.

An official newspaper said yesterday that former Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov secretly agreed with Moscow in 1972 to incorporate Bulgaria into the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union marked Army Day yesterday with firings, protests and warnings that soldiers coming home under Gorbachev's demilitarisation drive will be left out in the cold.

**Honecker 'amassed fortune'**

HAMBURG, Feb 24. (Reuter): East German prosecutors suspect former communist leader Erich Honecker amassed a huge private fortune during his years in power, the West German magazine *Der Spiegel* reported today.

It said Honecker, ousted last October, appropriated 75 million marks (\$45 million) in 1989 alone.

The money, paid by West Germany to "buy" the release of political prisoners, was lodged in an account to which only Honecker had access, the magazine said.

*Der Spiegel* said it had obtained a copy of a prosecutor's application for an arrest warrant against Honecker accusing him of having "systematically squandered considerable financial and material assets and resources of the state."

Honecker denied the allegations, it added.

And a large bloc of Latvian communists opened a conference to study a possible break with Moscow and formation of a new party.

Activists have already dubbed their big pro-reform campaign "the February 1990 revolution," a reference to the upheaval that brought a short-lived reformist government to power 73 years ago.

But it was clear that even official backers of President and party leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms were alarmed over the accelerating grass-roots campaign for change.

The latest sign came in an appeal from the Council of Ministers, calling on security organs to take "necessary measures to preserve order."



A Lithuanian woman looks at election posters. (Reuter wirephoto)

## Polish hitch to unity

### Kohl, Genscher differ on border issue

WEST BERLIN, Feb 24, (AP): West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher says uncertainty over Bonn's stance regarding Poland's western border is hindering German unification, and has called for Germany to reject any claims to Polish territory.

Today, Chancellor Helmut Kohl flies to the United States for talks with US President George Bush. German unification is expected to be the major topic of discussion.

Poland's state news agency Pap said that Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki called Kohl last evening.

The prime minister presented to the chancellor Poland's position on the problems connected with the process of unification of Germany and security of their neighbours, Pap said.

Mazowiecki stepped up the pressure on the border issue this week by calling on the two Germans to sign a peace treaty guaranteeing Poland's post-World War II boundaries.

Kohl's spokesman say that only the government of a united Germany can reject claims to what is now Poland, leading to an apparent difference of opinion with the Foreign Ministry.

German conservatives still claim part of modern-day Poland. About one-third of modern-day Poland was part of the Third Reich, and was turned over to Poland after the Nazi defeat.

Many agree with Genscher in arguing that questions about Bonn's stance regarding Polish territory stand in the way of joining the two German states.

The West German government is already positioning itself for the expected merging, although some say Kohl has been trying to move too quickly.

Interior Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble told US officials that the East Germany's freely elected parliament may opt for immediate unification, after being sworn in following elections on March 18.

"It is conceivable that there will be no more (East German) government after March 18," the conservative Bonn daily newspaper *Die Welt* quoted him as telling officials in Washington.

He said was due to the expected splintering of the new

fears that the nation is on the verge of economic collapse.

One of the most critical decisions affecting the pace and manner of unification will be the rate at which the East German mark is made convertible for the powerful West German currency in a monetary union joining the countries.

A 1-to-1 conversion rate would likely lead to rampant inflation, economists say.

Bonn government spokesman Dieter Vogel yesterday discounted a newspaper report contending that the West German government had decided on the 1-to-1 rate.

Vogel said that the committee studying economic union is still in the "fact-finding stage" and has come up with no firm conclusions.

Genscher, the toothless foreign minister of the centrist Free Democrats, has called for a clear stance regarding the Polish border.

"Uncertainty or a lack of obligation in this question hinders the unification of Germany," Genscher said in an interview with the Augsburger Zeitung.

He said both countries should issue declarations rejecting claims to Polish territory after East Germany's elections on March 18.

In other developments West German Bundesbank president Karl Otto Poehl tried to calm East German financial jitters, by advising them not to exchange their East German savings for West German currency.

The East German mark is considered overvalued and weak compared to the strong West German mark, and anything less than a 1-to-1 exchange would make the East German currency far less valuable than it is currently.

However, economists have said that a 1-to-1 exchange rate is unlikely because it also would send inflation soaring, and East Germans fear their savings in Ostmarks will be virtually wiped out when and if the Germans agree on a single currency.

■ Solidarity leader Lech Walesa said yesterday the Soviet Union is not doing enough to include Poland in the peace talks on Soviet Army Day.

Several recent polls, however, have indicated East Germany's Social Democrats will win more than 50 percent of the vote.

East Germany's economic crisis has accelerated in recent weeks, forcing the government to end food subsidies and raising

participation.

Most recent polls, however, have indicated East Germany's Social Democrats will win more than 50 percent of the vote.

East Germany's economic crisis has accelerated in recent weeks, forcing the government to end food subsidies and raising

assurances they were free to leave the cathedral.

But they grew wary when one of the curates who boarded the police vans with them in the cathedral grounds jumped out.

Asked where they were going as the vans departed, the students told reporters: "We don't know, we don't know."

Earlier, police charged at a group of about 300 students and supporters milling outside the cathedral in the centre of Ivory Coast's principal city Abidjan. Witnesses saw several students clubbed and about a dozen detained.

The students, after being photographed and giving their names to police, said they thought they had

## Lithuania votes, on way to secede

VILNIUS, USSR, Feb 24, (UPI): Lithuanians voted in heavy numbers today in momentous elections expected to produce a pro-independence Parliament to ratify speedy secession from the Soviet Union.

The yellow-green-and-red Lithuanian national flag fluttered under sunny skies at hundreds of polling stations throughout the Baltic republic.

The red Soviet banner with its hammer and sickle was not on display. Also absent were the large portraits and busts of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin that once dominated polling stations in pseudo-elections that offered voters no choice.

"The nation will choose its own Parliament," said Wladyslaw Mackiewicz, one of Lithuania's 400,000 ethnic Poles. "Soviet rule has ruined us, and we have to repair everything."

Many voters interviewed at several polling stations said the elections opened a new chapter in Lithuania's history, because the Parliament would be elected democratically for the first time since the Soviet Union annexed the tiny nation in 1940.

Turnout among the republic's 2.6 million eligible voters was heavy across the republic as Lithuanians chose the 142-seat Supreme Soviet from among 473 candidates, authorities said.

A spokesman for Seimas, the nationalist movement whose candidates were expected to sweep to victory, said four US congressmen invited by the group to observe the elections had finally received their visas after initial denials by Moscow.

But the spokesman said he did not know when the congressmen would arrive in Lithuania on what Moscow called a "tactical" mission.

Eight Canadian lawmakers allowed into the country earlier monitored the voting at various polling stations.

In the capital of Vilnius, voting was orderly with maximum 10-minute waits in lines of people filling past tables draped with red tablecloths.

Most voters quickly made their choices in booths cloaked by red curtains and then dropped the six-page ballots in a box with a large slot in the middle at each polling station.

Sabina Samko, in charge of polling station 22 in the large Naujoji Vilna district on the outskirts of Vilnius, said the new Parliament will face the difficult task of transforming Lithuania into a modern country.

"The problem of independence is the most important for us," she said.

Samko, a member of the Lithuanian Communist Party that broke away from Moscow two months ago, said Mikhail Gorbachev will have to accept the will of the Lithuanian people to become free.

Gorbachev's trip to Lithuania last month, the first ever by a Soviet leader, became a three-day forum of fierce debate on Lithuanian independence, with Gorbachev warning the republic was "setting sail without a compass."

■ About 30 young men turned in their military identification cards in the Lithuanian capital yesterday, and in Moldavia youths burned a military uniform in protest on Soviet Army Day.

But they grew wary when one of the curates who boarded the police vans with them in the cathedral grounds jumped out.

Asked where they were going as the vans departed, the students told reporters: "We don't know, we don't know."

Earlier, police charged at a group of about 300 students and supporters milling outside the cathedral in the centre of Ivory Coast's principal city Abidjan. Witnesses saw several students clubbed and about a dozen detained.

The students, after being photographed and giving their names to police, said they thought they had

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Europe

**Romania tightens security:** The Romanian government has issued bayonets and dogs to security forces and is moving additional police to Bucharest to control demonstrations. Interior Minister Mihai Chitac said on Friday.

Chitac made the announcement during a session of the ruling Provisional Council of National Unity, which was discussing a decree that would limit demonstrations.

Meanwhile, more than 500 people knelt and prayed at an open-air mass in downtown Bucharest on Friday, the first such celebration in decades. They offered prayers for those who died in the revolution that toppled dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

In another development, Foreign Minister Sergiu Colac met last week with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Colac also called for the restoration of preferential trading terms with the United States. Romania's most-favoured-nation status was revoked by Washington in 1986 because of human rights abuses under then-leader Nicolae Ceausescu. (AP)



Bomb suspects arrested

Silvana, 41, (No. 45, shown embracing her brother Artimio, 50, after she was released by her abductors May 3, 1989. Both of them were arrested Feb. 22, 1990, following the discovery of a parcel bomb addressed to her brother-in-law Oscar Zannoni. Silvana was kidnapped Oct. 1988 and released May 2, 1989 after her husband Giuseppe Zannoni and her brother-in-law Oscar Zannoni paid four billion lire (\$3m) ransom. Silvana's release raised particular comment because she emerged none the worse for her ordeal and said her kidnappers had given her jewellery, champagne and caviar. (Reuter wirephoto)

### Djilas' book

## Published at last

BELGRADE, Feb 24, (AP): "The New Class," the book that made Yugoslav dissident Milovan Djilas famous in the West, started selling in this communist country for the first time yesterday.

The book that describes the flamboyant lifestyles of ruling communist elites was widely sold in the West after it was smuggled out of Yugoslavia in 1957, but earned its author, a former top communist official, a seven-year prison sentence.

It was printed by a state publishing house in Belgrade and put on sale yesterday in a bookshop in the capital by publishing editor Vasilije Kalezic.

Djilas, a former protege of Yugoslavia's founder and former president, the late Josip Broz Tito, broke with the communist leadership in 1954 after he publicly criticized the Communist Party for not allowing more western-style democracy in Yugoslavia.

### Finland's bill on war damages

Finland might present a future united Germany with a bill for war damage to Arctic Lapland, a senior Foreign Ministry official said on Friday.

Finnish forces chased 200,000 German troops out of Lapland between 1944 and 1945 with heavy loss of life and widespread destruction but the question of reparations is still open.

"If other countries come forward with similar bills then certainly we will be in the negotiations. It is another question whether we will be successful," said Eero Kekomaki, head of the ministry's legal department. He declined to comment on how big the bill could be. (Reuter)

## Mandela faces test

### Bid to end black feud

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 24, (Agencies): Black nationalist Nelson Mandela faces the biggest test of his leadership since release from life imprisonment when he tries tomorrow to end a bloody inter-black feud in South Africa's Natal province.

Mandela, figurehead of the African National Congress (ANC), will also attempt to forge unity among anti-apartheid groups ahead of negotiations with the white minority government on a post-apartheid South Africa.

Mandela's reputation for statesmanship and non-racial breadth of vision will be tested to full tomorrow, commented The Star, the country's largest daily newspaper.

Mandela's speech at a rally in the Natal port city of Durban will be his second major address since being freed 13 days ago. It will deal with an 11-year-old rift

# Marrying a jinni, you're 'not prohibited'

CAIRO, Feb 24. (UPI): An Egyptian Islamic scholar advised readers of his popular weekly advice column Wednesday that marriage to a jinni — which in Muslim legend is believed to be a supernatural being that can take human form — is possible, provided the jinni was female.

Jinni are best known in the West through the tales of the Arabian Nights, where a boy called Aladdin found a magic lamp and a magic ring, with which he could call up a jinni to do his bidding.

"A human male can marry a female jinni, but a male jinni cannot marry a human female," Sheikh Ibrahim Al Wafsi advised readers in the government-supervised

ised Islamic newspaper Alieewaa Al Islami.

Worried reader Abdul-Salam Hamed asked whether love and marriage to a jinni would violate Islamic laws.

Sheikh Al Wafsi quoted noted Islamic philosopher Ibn Taimiyyah as saying that, "human beings and jinni were allowed to make love within the sanctity of marriage, and even have children."

Many Egyptians tend to believe in the supernatural, and avidly read advice columns in newspapers such as Alieewaa Al Islami.

"Even educated Egyptian tend to take a great interest in the supernatural, and many believe in things like jinni."

explained US-educated psychologist Lutfi Ibrahim, 32.

The sheikh said: "One cannot say that making love between human beings and jinni is impossible, because the jinni are created out of fire, for as God made human beings out of mud, so he made jinni out of fire."

He warned devout Muslims however that, "there are good jinni and there are bad jinni... the bad ones are used as fuel for hell's inferno, while jinni which are converted to Islam are liberated."

But another Islamic scholar, Sheikh Abdel-Monef Mahmood, said in the

same weekly newspaper that marriage between human beings and jinni was impossible, because both groups share an intense dislike for each other.

"They hate each other, so marriage is out of question," Sheikh Mahmood was quoted as saying.

The scholar said some Muslims, however, believed that sex and marriage between jinni and humans was, "taboo and incest."

Sheikh Mahmood advised readers to refrain from getting emotionally attached to jinni, because such a union would cause "more problems than it is worth."

# Syrians blast ferry

(Continued from Page 1)

raiders spoke with Syrian accents.

Two Lebanese ferry crewmen said they saw a Syrian flag and the number 23 on the boat.

There was no immediate comment from Damascus on the attack.

Bloodstains, glass shards and fragments of shattered furniture and gaming machines littered the plush saloon of the ferry.

"The saloon was crowded with men, women and children. People were crying and there were bloodstains everywhere," said a Lebanese passenger who said she escaped only because she went to the toilet minutes before the attack.

"There was terrible confusion and panic on board. There was smoke and dust everywhere and people screaming," he said. "We first thought the ship had caught fire, but the smoke and the dust was only caused by the exploding shells."

"We ran from one side of the boat to the other as the gunboat circled," he said.

The captain said at dawn, two hours after the first encounter, passengers and crew went to the top deck and waved flags and sheets at the warship to attract its attention.

"We were telling it on the radio that we had wounded who needed attention badly and we were asking it what to do since we were stationary."

said the captain.

"When the Baroess M radioed for help for the wounded passengers, the Syrian boat hauled down its flag," crew member Danny Zarour said.

The captain said the warship hovered in the distance, slowly approaching a third time. He said he could not tell what country it came from.

"As if nothing had happened he ordered me to open the back gangplank so that he could examine our cargo," he said.

The Baroess M, designed to take cars on and off the back ramp, usually travels with an empty hull to Lebanon. Only the passenger baggage is stored in the area for cars.

"We told him we were a Greek ship under the Cyprus flag and he told us to go back to our country and don't try to come to Lebanon again," Samotakis said.

Nora Kasbari, spokesman for Socoman, agents for the ship, said it carried 64 passengers and 52 crew members when it left Larnaca late yesterday for the seven-hour trip to Jounieh, 200 kilometres (120 miles) east.

The RAF answered the distress call at 6.52 am (0452 GMT), dropping two doctors and a medical team on board to sedate the wounded.

A security committee of representatives from rival Christian forces

began today to remove mines and sand barricades from streets in the Christian enclave in a second such attempt in 24 hours, Christian sources said.

Sources said a bulldozer removed huge sand barricades from the Dog River crossing points in the northern region of Kesrouane. Lebanese Forces militia sources said the crossing points opened both ways for pedestrians and cars.

The operation was supervised by security committee, which includes representatives of Geo. Michel Aoun's forces and Lebanese Forces militiaman of Samir Geagea, and the three-man mediation team, the sources said.

"We began this morning by opening the roads of the Dog River and people can now circulate safely," said mediator Chaker Abu Suleiman, a prominent Maronite attorney.

"If everything goes well, all roads to Kesrouane and East Beirut will be reopened this afternoon or tomorrow," he said.

Police said today they had requested help from Syrian soldiers deployed in West Beirut in locating a Turkish embassy guard kidnapped earlier in the week.

A police spokesman said Michel Aoun was kidnapped from his West Beirut residence on Wednesday evening.

## PLO names first women diplomats

ABU DHABI, Feb 24, (AP): For the first time, Yasser Arafat has approved the appointment of women to head the Palestine Liberation Organisation's diplomatic missions, a senior PLO official said today.

Abdul Latif Abu Hijlah, director-general of the PLO's political department, said Layla Shaheed was named Palestinian "ambassador" to Dublin and Nuhu Tadrus to Valetta, Malta, under a reshuffle of representatives approved by Arafat.

The PLO has called its representatives ambassadors since it launched its 1988 peace initiative acknowledging the existence of the state of Israel side by side with a Palestinian state on what was formerly Palestine under British mandate.

The PLO has already unilaterally proclaimed the establishment of the state, generally designated for the West Bank and Gaza Strip territories which are under Israeli occupation.

Abu Hijlah, who spoke in Abu Dhabi, said the reshuffle involves 12 ambassadors among whom were some new appointees, including the two women.

Ms Shaheed, who studied political sciences at the Sorbonne, was a close aide of the late Izzudeen Qassem, the PLO's representative in Paris who was assassinated in the late 1970s.

Ms Shaheed, in her early 40s, has been an active member of Fatah, the Palestinian mainstream faction within the PLO, since she was a student at the



Kidnapped doctors in Brussels

## Baker, Arens fail to agree

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (AP): US Secretary of State James Baker and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens failed yesterday to arrange an opening round of Mideast negotiations, but left the impression of eventual success.

"It was a very constructive and hopefully a very productive meeting," Baker said after talking to Arens alone for 90 minutes in his State Department office.

Arens agreed, saying "we had a good, constructive conversation."

However, when Baker was asked if he had been able to set up a three-way meeting with Arens and Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel-Meguid — the first step in a drawn-out US plan for negotiations — he replied:

"No, we have not agreed today on the timetable for a trilateral meeting."

After the meeting, Arens flew to New York and planned to continue on to Israel to night, at the end of the Jewish Sabbath. He will brief Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Israeli cabinet separately tomorrow, officials said.

On Monday, Arens is due in Warsaw to oversee a resumption of diplomatic relations with Poland after a 23-year lapse.

While the statements by Baker and Arens indicated some optimism, the next move is up to the Israeli cabinet, the customary procedure.

Baker told the Israeli foreign minister about his talks in Moscow with Soviet officials on two issues of keen interest to Israel: rising anti-Semitism and Soviet unwillingness to implement an agreement for direct Aeroflot flights to Tel Aviv with Jewish refugees.

Arens said he had thanked Baker for his efforts.

The meeting was held against a backdrop of US impatience and mounting political pressure in Israel for concessions over peace talks.

Israel's majority Likud Party, of which Arens is a senior member, is under pressure from the minority Labour Party to accept Labour's formula for starting the talks or face dissolution of the coalition government in Israel.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, meanwhile, said in a letter released by peace activists in the Israeli capital that he had approved the composition of a Palestinian delegation that would include delegates from the West Bank and Gaza.

Baker has tried for months to arrange a three-way session here with Arens and Egypt's Abdel-Meguid. It would be followed by talks between Israel and Palestinians in Cairo.

Baker told the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Thursday the agenda and the composition of the delegation remained unsettled.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

Tehran radio reported Monday that 30 criminals involved in drug trafficking and prostitution had been executed. The Mujahedeen said the hangings were a warning to potential demonstrators emboldened by the riot.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

Tehran radio reported Monday that 30 criminals involved in drug trafficking and prostitution had been executed. The Mujahedeen said the hangings were a warning to potential demonstrators emboldened by the riot.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.

The Mujahedeen said in a statement that at least 10 of the demonstrators it says were killed during Friday's riot were buried the next day in unmarked graves at the Beheshti Zahra cemetery on the outskirts of Tehran.



## ARAB TIMES

## Thought for today

HUMAN nature is very perverse, and we only care to hear of another's happiness when we are the givers of it — George Moore, Irish author.

# US effort crucial Afghan issue stalemated

BOSTON, (CSM): What once looked like the beginning of victory for the cause of freedom in Afghanistan now looks more like a political and military stalemate.

But even that stalemate could slide into a defeat unless the US makes a much more vigorous and flexible effort to reach peace, say a number of experts who have followed events since withdrawal of Soviet troops last February.

The issue now is whether to continue current United States policy or to "pronounce it a failure and start from scratch," says former US ambassador to Afghanistan Robert Neumann.

US predictions early this year that the war would soon end, and the Marxist regime of President Najibullah in Kabul would collapse, were clearly off target. Fuelled by weapons from the Soviet Union, US, and Saudi Arabia the war goes on — in some ways more intensively than before.

Lacking both tight discipline and unity, the mujahideen have been hard pressed to shift from defensive to offensive tactics and have scored no significant victories. Despite two coup attempts, Najibullah remains in power.

## Circumstances

Critics of US policy say it should adapt to circumstances. "Our principle interest was satisfied when the Soviets withdrew," says Rep. Anthony Beilenson (D) of California, head of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. "I don't think we should pull out and leave our friends (the mujahideen) without support, but I do think we have to start nudging everybody towards trying to find a way to negotiate an end to all this."

Many, including the congressman, say an agreement to stop all foreign military aid to both sides in Afghanistan is a logical first step. The US first suggested it in March 1982 to the Soviets who turned it down. The Soviets urge it, and the US rejects it.

The administration's reasons include new Soviet insistence on a settlement in which the US says it could never deliver, and the advantage that would give to Najibullah. His regime is being inundated with \$250 million to \$400 million worth of Soviet weapons each month, including powerful Scud missiles.

Both Afghanistan was discussed by US and Soviet officials both at a Wyoming mini-summit and at Malta, the US has said little about specific progress. "The discussions may have moved the situation along a bit," says Selig Harrison, a senior associate at the Carnegie Council for International Peace. But there are no strong signs that have prompted a genuine reappraisal of US policy, he says. "The US is essentially trying to find a way to salvage present policy."

The US views its continuation of covert military aid to the mujahideen as a political bargaining chip, rather than as the key to a quick victory. As one US official puts it: "The Kabul government is going to roll over." The US also hopes the Soviet Union's troubles may in time force cuts in aid to Kabul, and that time may open the prospects for another coup attempt against Najib, the US said.

Afghanistan and Moscow say they want a political solution to their differences on the specifics. The US says it sees no advantage to Soviets, and desires no government hostile to them. The US, however, will support mujahideen refusal to talk with Najibullah. The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) about the formation of a new government or any coalition that includes the former Soviet chief and his associates.

## Deal

"We don't deal with Najib and I don't think we should," says Rep. John Conyers. "He's a murderous scoundrel who has lots of blood on his hands. Every member of the resistance has friends and relatives who were killed by his secret forces."

John Crouther, director of the University of Nebraska's Centre for Afghan Studies, says the resistance should not be asked to form a coalition with PDPA leaders. "There are times when treasonous acts go on, and a standard that can be accepted... I believe that if the top of the PDPA leadership could be skinned off, the road would be open for the kind of negotiations that could end the war."

Despite a readiness to admit their intervention in Afghanistan 10 years ago was illegal and immoral, the Soviets have shown no inclination to compromise on support for Najibullah. They admit they are surprised and pleased at his apparent strength and say they cannot abandon him now.

Some analysts say the US should bend on this point. They note that Najibullah and his aides are not likely to be significant players in any final settlement. "Any genuine political process in Afghanistan will lead to the ouster of Najib — I think that's a certainty," says Barnett Rubin, a fellow of the US Institute of Peace.

Alternatives now discussed include a transition period presided over by Zahir Shah, the Afghan king overthrown in a military coup in 1973. The US, Soviets, and a number of Afghans would favour his return, but some Islamic fundamentalist leaders remember his rule repressive.

Another suggestion involves a coalition that would permit on the communist side those so-called "good Muslims" associated with the Kabul regime, but who may not be members of the party or the inner circle of rulers.

For the non-communist delegation, the US continues to support the anti-party, Pakistan-based Afghan Interim Government.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

- 545 — Scots defeat English forces at Acrem moor.
- 570 — England's Queen Elizabeth I is excommunicated by Pope Paul III.
- 1537 — England's Earl of Essex is executed for treason.
- 1547 — Maximilian, Duke of Bavaria, is granted upper palatinate by Roman Emperor Ferdinand I.
- 1553 — Sweden's King Charles XII is taken prisoner by Sultan Suleiman.
- 1605 — Robert Clive leaves India to return to England.
- 1648 — Part of Ratisbon reconstructs German states under France and Russia.
- 1658 — Germany annexes Tanganyika and Zanzibar.
- 1682 — King Charles II of England dies.
- 1702 — General Camal Abdel Nasser usurps power as premier of Egypt.
- 1705 — Spain's president Chiclana flees following army coup.
- 1727 — Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev goes before Communist Congress in Moscow and denounces late dictator Stalin.
- 1738 — United States vetos United Nations resolution deplored the sacking of Jerusalem.
- 1758 — United States cautions Soviet Union that continued military intervention in Ethiopia-Somalia conflict could lead to US retaliation.
- 1770 — Philippine president Ferdinand E. Marcos resigns, overthrown by a "people's power" uprising, military revolt, and US pressure.
- 1775 — Pro-Iranian Shiite Muslims burn 23 militants killed by US soldiers in Lebanon, and claim they were "deliberately massacred" with axes and bayonets.
- 1789 — Thousands demonstrate in Soviet Armenia despite local authorities to restore order.
- 1889 — Philippines President Corazon Aquino vows to unite nation and "initiate the ways of peace."

## W. Europe worried over one Germany

## Unification draws mixed feelings

BRUSSELS, (UPI): The slogans, only partly in jest, are many, each reflecting Western Europe's concerns over a unified Germany.

"We love Germany so much we wish forever there will be two of them," says a Danish politician with obvious sarcasm.

Nato, the pundits say, was invented after World War II to keep the Americans in Western Europe, the Russians out and the Germans down.

And these days, usually deaf diplomats are decrying the "ketchup effect" of German unification: Western Europe has been banging the bottom of the bottle, urging a splash of freedom, but ended up with a flood.

In other words, if you say you want something badly enough you just might get it. People who for decades advocated German unification (safely, they thought, seeing no realistic chance) now face it as an imminent certainty.

"Many people believe that unification is step one, that step two will be a strong Germany militarily, and that they will then want to discuss borders," said one diplomat at the 12-nation European Economic Community.

Many disagree, maintaining the catchy sayings are merely the crutchwords of cynics, and the polls support the cynics-haters.

A survey published several days ago found 68 per cent of the French population favouring unification, compared to 61 per cent in Britain, 78 per cent in Italy and 73 per cent in Spain. Only in Poland did a majority oppose unification.

Still, many people who say they favour unification quickly add qualifiers, much like an American politician who swears off any tax increase but favours "other revenue enhancers."

It is clearly uncool in Europe these days to oppose unification, especially among the young. The generation who lived through World War II is more outspoken.

"We wouldn't be opposed to a unification sought by the people, but European peace requires us to impose indispensable conditions for a new Germany (including) the respect for borders," said Michel Debre, the French prime minister from 1959 to 1962.

On the docksides of east London, sentiment ranges from outright hostility toward unification (Eric Boulton, 59: "Before long there'll be World War III. It's happened twice already") to historical resignation (Nick Hogan, 36: "It's Germany's own business. England was an aggressive power in the past, for hundreds of years. We all have our moments").

Although some world Jewish leaders have expressed reservations, citing lingering memories of the holocaust, Germany seems to be a non-issue in the large orthodox Jewish community in Antwerp, Belgium. The streets there are filled with men in dark coats, dark hats and long beards. Many older residents have identity numbers tattooed on their arms, a grim reminder of Hitler's hell.

"We are not thinking much about Germany," said Rachel Menczer, whose family owns a Jewish bookstore near the famed Antwerp diamond exchange. "We are studying the Torah and doing good deeds and what will happen is in God's hands."

Adds another nearby Jewish merchant, "If they're acting like normal people, why not be unified. We are more interested in the politics of Israel than Germany."

In West Germany, the heady enthusiasm over unification (one newspaper headline: "God bless our German fatherland") drowns out the few voices expressing fear of future military might.

One such voice is that of noted author Guenther Grass ("The Tin Drum"), born in Poland but living in West Germany. He rejects the concept of a united Germany because of the country's Nazi past.

"A modern crime of this extent — and Auschwitz was only part of it all — can only be done by a unified state," he said on German TV.

Any cocktail-party argument against unification based merely on economic strength will quickly empty a room. West Germany is already, by far, the dominant economic power in Europe and will not "become" (the alarmists' term) a colossus by incorporating the crippled East German economy.

"We don't deal with Najib and I don't think we should," says Rep. John Conyers. "He's a murderous scoundrel who has lots of blood on his hands. Every member of the resistance has friends and relatives who were killed by his secret forces."

John Crouther, director of the University of Nebraska's Centre for Afghan Studies, says the resistance should not be asked to form a coalition with PDPA leaders. "There are times when treasonous acts go on, and a standard that can be accepted... I believe that if the top of the PDPA leadership could be skinned off, the road would be open for the kind of negotiations that could end the war."

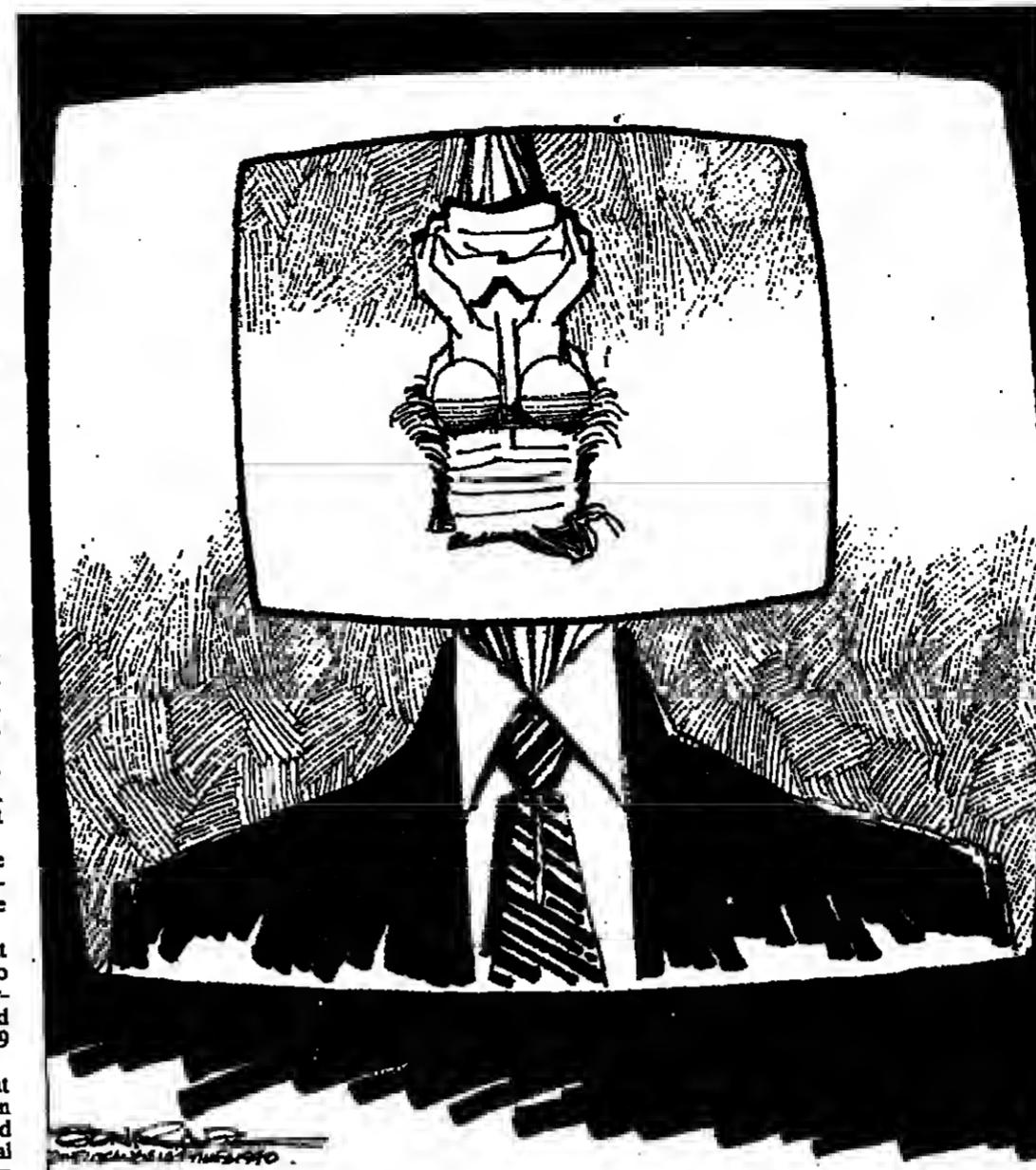
Despite a readiness to admit their intervention in Afghanistan 10 years ago was illegal and immoral, the Soviets have shown no inclination to compromise on support for Najibullah. They admit they are surprised and pleased at his apparent strength and say they cannot abandon him now.

Some analysts say the US should bend on this point. They note that Najibullah and his aides are not likely to be significant players in any final settlement. "Any genuine political process in Afghanistan will lead to the ouster of Najib — I think that's a certainty," says Barnett Rubin, a fellow of the US Institute of Peace.

Alternatives now discussed include a transition period presided over by Zahir Shah, the Afghan king overthrown in a military coup in 1973. The US, Soviets, and a number of Afghans would favour his return, but some Islamic fundamentalist leaders remember his rule repressive.

Another suggestion involves a coalition that would permit on the communist side those so-called "good Muslims" associated with the Kabul regime, but who may not be members of the party or the inner circle of rulers.

For the non-communist delegation, the US continues to support the anti-party, Pakistan-based Afghan Interim Government.



I WOULD LIKE TO BE INFORMED BEFORE THE SPLIT SCREEN IS USED AGAIN BY THE NETWORKS.

## Fears to be allayed

BONN, West Germany, (UPI): In their weekend summit at Camp David, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President George Bush will have to confront Europe's fears about a reunified Germany.

The United States and its World War II allies concede that a single German state is inevitable following political upheaval across the Soviet bloc.

Kohl's government believes East Germany and West Germany — members of the rival alliances for four decades — could be merged this year into a nation of 80 million people.

But neighbouring countries are troubled by the rapid moves toward a merger, with security arrangements and the final borders of a reunified Germany still unresolved.

The conservative Christian Democrats were only a couple of percentage points ahead of the opposition Social Democratic Party in recent West German voters polls.

And rightist support is crucial if Kohl is to fulfil his ambition of becoming the first leader of a united Germany.

Kohl has been deliberately evasive when asked whether his Christian Democratic government will respect the 1945 Potsdam agreement that awarded German territories to Poland and the Soviet Union.

For domestic political reasons, Kohl isn't eager to write off these territories in advance of next December's national elections. This would alienate conservative voters and organisations like the 2-million-strong Association of Exiles from former German lands, whose support Kohl needs for re-election.

The conservative Christian Democrats were only a couple of percentage points ahead of the opposition Social Democratic Party in recent West German voters polls.

And rightist support is crucial if Kohl is to fulfil his ambition of becoming the first leader of a united Germany.

On Friday, Bonn government spokesman Dieter Vogel said Kohl had not responded to Mazzowicki's appeal because the border issue could be decided only by the Parliament of United Germany, not West Germany alone.

At the Camp David presidential retreat this weekend, Bush may use the relaxed atmosphere to encourage Kohl to ease Poland's fears by giving assurances that the current boundary formed by the Oder and Neisse rivers would be the permanent frontier between Poland and Germany.

Atmosphere

Kohl and some of his advisers have lately presented German unity as a fair compact. Interior Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble predicted that East Germany is likely to declare an immediate merger with West Germany after elections on March 18.

Fears about the identity of the new leaders have spawned wild rumours. One said that interim President Ion Iliescu was the college room-mate of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, whose reform brand of Communism is viewed dimly here.

The rumours get a broad reception in a country that has no history of democracy or a free press and shares the Balkan tradition of intrigue.

"Before all Romania lived on foreign radios and zvonuri," said a Western diplomat, using the Romanian word for gossip. "They have no critical sense."

Rumour

The unconfirmed rumour that Interior Minister Mihai Chitac shot demonstrators during the December revolution fuelled protests last week by military officers. The officers also accused Defence Minister Nicolae Mihail of favouring communists.

The rumour that an anti-government demonstrator was shot by soldiers provoked last Sunday's rampage at government headquarters.

The atmosphere of suspicion heightened as the government blamed the attack on foreign agents and fascists.

About 5,000 miners descended on Bucharest on Monday to show support for the government after hearing the charges on television.

Diplomats say the desire to begin with a clean slate in Romania is an indication of the unrealistically high expectations created by the revolution.

"You can't change everything in two months," a diplomat said. "There's nobody to replace (the communists) with."

No organised opposition had existed under Ceausescu and Communist Party membership was a requirement for many jobs. Around four million of Romania's 23 million people belonged to the party, which has collapsed.

Romanians have seized on their new freedom to protest a myriad of grievances, ranging from low pay to government manipulation of the media.

But old fears haunt even those demonstrating in public. A man with a camera at a recent demonstration was accosted by about 50 people charging that he was working for the Securitate.

"Go to Moscow. Go to Korea," they shouted, ignoring the man's cries that he was a reporter.

"Probably you have good intentions," an elderly man advised the photographer. "But the people are afraid."

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1990

## Fear, suspicion haunt Romania

BUCHAREST, Romania, (AP): Two months after the overthrow of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania is suffering from a paralysing legacy of fear and suspicion.

The interim government's hesitation in purging the bureaucracy of Ceausescu loyalists has fuelled a sometimes hysterical distrust among a people who endured 24 years of the Stalinist leader's harsh rule.

The suspicion exploded last Sunday in an assault on government headquarters at Bucharest's Victory Square by hundreds of demonstrators shouting "down with Communism."

They smashed windows and ransacked the building, tossing copies of Ceausescu's books off the balcony, before the army reasserted control three hours later.

## Atmosphere

"We're living in an atmosphere of paranoia and suspicion," said a Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Everyone is pointing fingers."

Romanians are still exuberant about the Dec. 22 overthrow of Ceausescu, who was executed three days later.

But many seem disillusioned by the interim government's decision to replace Ceausescu's ministers while leaving in place other high-ranking officials, who were required to belong to the Communist Party in the past.

"The chiefs of the ministries and factories have remained the old leaders — and they were communists," said a 60-year-old housewife in a fur cap in downtown Bucharest, who identified herself only as Helen. "We are in the same situation as before the revolution."

Even so, the National Salvation Front that took power after the revolution has taken important steps toward freedom, ranging from allowing demonstrations to letting Romanians travel abroad.

It has expanded the front's political committee to include opposition members, and has held elections on May 11, including a referendum on May 12.

But the front also has aroused suspicion with its heavy-handed control of the state media, some choices of top officials without serving Ceausescu and its decision to disband the secret police.

A recent cartoon in a Bucharest daily shows a man with a bushy moustache disguised in the head scarf of a peasant woman.

Securitate

"The Securitate are still among us," he tells a woman, reflecting a commonly held view.

Recriminations extend to those known or suspected to have belonged to the Communist Party, which is equated with Ceausescu and all the evils of his reign.

A

# KUWAIT

## NATIONAL DAY - AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

### Diplomatic wizardry

By Fathima Ahmed  
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT is emerging as a diplomatic wizard with the experience gathered from its journey through what may be described as the most testing eight years of its history.

The Iran-Iraq conflict brought about a perceptible shift in Kuwait's foreign policy, as it had to cope with an increasingly volatile situation in the region.

Kuwait, sandwiched between Iraq to the northwest and Saudi Arabia to the south — and only 100 miles from the raging battles on the warfront, was in an extremely vulnerable position, particularly in the last 24 months of the war.

In 1987, it suffered Iranian missile attacks on land; and its ships became targets at sea. A year later, it weathered an alarming number of acts of sabotage at home and faced terrorism, when KAC airliners were hijacked in 1984 and 1988....

Despite Kuwait's public and private wealth, economically it was drained due to oil-price fluctuation, the aftermath of the Manakh stock exchange crash and, more importantly, the drying up of its once lucrative re-export trade to Iraq, prompting the world press to dub Kuwait "as the hostage of the conflict."

The conflict was like a time-bomb ticking in its face, forcing it to make a perceptible, but subtle, shift in its foreign policy to cope with an extremely volatile and vulnerable situation in the region.

#### Flexible

Ever since its independence 29 years ago, Kuwait's diplomacy has been active and highly flexible. The leadership, in the early years of independence, recognised Kuwait's vulnerability after Abdul Karim Qassem of Iraq claimed "Kuwait as part of Iraq" territory in 1961.

In that period Kuwait realised that solving problems by force is not always the best way to settle a dispute, according to a political analyst. At that time, the dispute was settled through Arab League mediation.

Kuwait's diplomacy is based on three overlapping principles: non-alignment with either superpower, opposition to foreign intervention in the Gulf, and developing and maintaining friendly ties with both the East and the West. Broadly, these policies are also followed by the other members — Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain — of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC).

Kuwait's powerful Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah implements these policies with sophistication, panache and shrewdness. The longest serving foreign minister in the world (since 1978) Sheikh Sabah is described by experts as the shaper of foreign policy and the shaper of force behind the shrewd policies formulated by the state.

Due to its strategic geographic location and potential threats — both external and internal — and the demographic constitution where Kuwaitis are in a minority, Kuwait walks a tight rope. Its diplomatic efforts are two-pronged: to stay on good terms with as many countries as possible regardless of political complexion and to take principled stands on inter-Arab disputes.

For long, Kuwait was the only Gulf state to maintain diplomatic ties on an ambassadorial level with the Soviet Union, China and other East bloc states. It also has good ties with the Western states.

#### Support

During the Iran-Iraq war, the vulnerable position of the country was more pronounced, prompting Kuwait to spearhead efforts to rally world support. Aware of their modest military resources and the relative superiority of powerful neighbours like Iran, Kuwait and other Gulf states formed the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) to pool their resources and to take a collective stand on regional issues.

Kuwait's biggest diplomatic coup was during the war years when it managed to arouse world opinion, sympathy and support for its plight and that of its GCC



Sheikh Sabah: longest serving foreign minister

foreign minister

alities. Kuwait's oil exports benefited from American and Soviet protection of shipping, and a general Western commitment to maintain free navigation in the Gulf. Politically, though belatedly, the world community demonstrated serious concern about "regional tensions" and made a concerted effort, through the United Nations Security Council, and passed Resolution 598 ordering a ceasefire in the war. The Arab world also rallied around the Gulf states and backed Kuwait against external threats. Since the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war last year, Kuwait has rescinded its agreement with the US for refuelling tankers and six of 11 have already reverted to the Kuwaiti flag.

Despite Kuwait's public and private wealth, economically it was drained due to oil-price fluctuation, the aftermath of the Manakh stock exchange crash and, more importantly, the drying up of its once lucrative re-export trade to Iraq, prompting the world press to dub Kuwait "as the hostage of the conflict."

The conflict was like a time-bomb ticking in its face, forcing it to make a perceptible, but subtle, shift in its foreign policy to cope with an extremely volatile and vulnerable situation in the region.

Observers say that Kuwait's foreign policy is a "complex balancing act" involving the use of money (in the form of foreign aid), diplomacy and firm stands on vital issues confronting the Arab world.

According to one expert Kuwait "foreign policy is designed to add muscle to its neutrality and non-involvement in inter-Arab and Gulf disputes."

Due to its neutrality and its uniquely good ties with a number of states, it has an advantage in playing the role of a key negotiator in mediating Arab issues, like the recent move by the Arab League, delegating Kuwait to head a six-man committee to resolve the Lebanese crisis. In recent months, it played a crucial role in resolving the Turkish minority issue in Bulgaria. In the past it played a vital role in settling a border dispute between Oman and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

When Kuwait moved into Europe they met with little resistance. The refining market was in the doldrums and some of the majors, such as Gulf Oil (whose refining facilities were bought by Kuwait) withdrew from the European downstream. The steep fall in crude prices forced some refiners out of the sector or to seek a producer-exporter partner. In the early 1980s demand for oil was stagnating, even declining, the market was not expanding and predictions about the future of oil industry and refining in particular were gloomy explained one Arab analyst.

All this boded well for Kuwait which had long sought to control all aspects of its oil industry and had the money to do so.

Kuwait which opted for takeovers as opposed to joint ventures acquired foreign downstream assets at a relatively low cost.



HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah

As it strives to wrench away a portion of the European market from its powerful rivals, Kuwait also tries to make inroads into the Asian marketplace and has designs on downstream facilities in the United States.

But few deals have been struck to match Kuwait's success in 1983 when the Gulf state began acquiring European refineries and networks. The move led to a network of 4,370 Kuwaiti-owned service stations that currently distribute 300,000 barrels of oil products in nine European states.

When Kuwaitis moved into Europe they met with little resistance. The refining market was in the doldrums and some of the majors, such as Gulf Oil (whose refining facilities were bought by Kuwait) withdrew from the European downstream. The steep fall in crude prices forced some refiners out of the sector or to seek a producer-exporter partner. In the early 1980s demand for oil was stagnating, even declining, the market was not expanding and predictions about the future of oil industry and refining in particular were gloomy explained one Arab analyst.

All this boded well for Kuwait which had long sought to control all aspects of its oil industry and had the money to do so.

Kuwait which opted for takeovers as opposed to joint ventures acquired foreign downstream assets at a relatively low cost.

#### Competition

Its initial success in establishing a foothold in Europe, an important advantage especially when West European markets unite in 1992, whetted its appetite for new conquests. But as years passed the market conditions changed and Kuwait was coming up against more hurdles than breaks. Demand for refined products has been growing, refining operations are getting more profitable, and there is more optimism about the prospects for oil industry. Hence a reluctance to sell.

In Europe, Kuwait is increasingly facing stiff competition from oil majors such as Shell, BP, Esso and Agip. Asia remains a tough market to crack and the United States, fearing further dependence on foreign



A petrochemical complex in Kuwait.

oil, is paranoid about an Opec country penetrating their market.

The main thrust of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation development strategy centres on Europe where it has targeted its expansion on Britain, Holland and Italy, markets dominated by oil majors.

In Britain, where KPC has 1,270 service stations, Kuwait's goal is to raise its share of the retail market from the current 2.5 percent to 8 percent. KPC, which currently holds 5 percent of the market in Holland and Italy has not set an upper limit for its expansion.

Few details of the plan are available but it is understood that among the new measures is an increase in the number of retail outlets and their capacity which will reduce the transport costs. The plan hinges on a more efficient running of the entire operation to lower the costs at a time when KPC pushes for higher sales.

In a bold move to boost its plans the company has bought two lube-oil companies, Carless Lubricants Ltd in Britain and a smaller firm in Italy.

#### Operations

"Lubricants offer the highest profit margins on product sales. We are a producer of base oils which serve as feedstock for making finished lubricants. Our goal is to reach the consumer end of the market," one KPC executive has said. Among other Kuwaiti oil products on sale in Europe are gasoline and jet fuel with gas oil diesel being the best seller according to total sales figures in the Brush, Dutch and

### Bright future

*"The Kuwait of tomorrow belongs to the Kuwaiti youth — men and women. The country is surging ahead to the bright future based on the confidence, will and determination of its youth."*

HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Feb 14, 1987.

LONG before the discovery of oil, Kuwait was a conservative, traditional society, strongly attracted to and influenced by the sea and the sand. Both played a significant role in shaping the country's social and economic structure. For centuries, a society built on simplicity, spontaneity and social cohesion flourished. This, however, changed with the discovery of oil in the heart of the desert, kindling a new kind of activity and a different sort of interaction between the peoples. The Kuwaiti government earned massive amounts of oil revenue which was used in developing and modernising the country. It also opened its doors "temporarily" to expatriate workers, who played a key role in the social and economic progress. The government reorganised and expanded key sectors like social services, health, education, housing, social security, public utilities and labour, thus laying the foundations of what is now known as the "welfare state".

As Kuwait looks ahead, the government has plans to diversify investments to seek alternative sources of revenue, restructure the population to reduce the gap and develop a national manpower base and build a strong industrial base. For the moment, the emphasis is on reviving the economic sector. Increasingly, the leadership is playing a leading role in world and regional affairs, particularly after assuming the chairmanship of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).



HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah: looking ahead to an era of prosperity and progress

### Kuwait: seeking new markets in Europe, Asia

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT'S efforts to expand its overseas refining and marketing facilities have met with less than an enthusiastic response in Europe, Asia and the US, slowing down its plans to double its own share in overall downstream sales. As it strives to wrench away a portion of the European market from its powerful rivals, Kuwait also tries to make inroads into the Asian marketplace and has designs on downstream facilities in the United States.

But few deals have been struck to match Kuwait's success in 1983 when the Gulf state began acquiring European refineries and networks. The move led to a network of 4,370 Kuwaiti-owned service stations that currently distribute 300,000 barrels of oil products in nine European states.

When Kuwaitis moved into Europe they met with little resistance. The refining market was in the doldrums and some of the majors, such as Gulf Oil (whose refining facilities were bought by Kuwait) withdrew from the European downstream. The steep fall in crude prices forced some refiners out of the sector or to seek a producer-exporter partner. In the early 1980s demand for oil was stagnating, even declining, the market was not expanding and predictions about the future of oil industry and refining in particular were gloomy explained one Arab analyst.

All this boded well for Kuwait which had long sought to control all aspects of its oil industry and had the money to do so.

Kuwait which opted for takeovers as opposed to joint ventures acquired foreign downstream assets at a relatively low cost.

#### Competition

Its initial success in establishing a foothold in Europe, an important advantage especially when West European markets unite in 1992, whetted its appetite for new conquests. But as years passed the market conditions changed and Kuwait was coming up against more hurdles than breaks. Demand for refined products has been growing, refining operations are getting more profitable, and there is more optimism about the prospects for oil industry. Hence a reluctance to sell.

In Europe, Kuwait is increasingly facing stiff competition from oil majors such as Shell, BP, Esso and Agip. Asia remains a tough market to crack and the United States, fearing further dependence on foreign

oil, is paranoid about an Opec country penetrating their market.

Parallel to the development of its European operations, KPC is studying opportunities in Asian markets. Thailand is the only Asian state to have responded to Kuwaiti plans to market its oil products there. Kuwait signed a deal last year with Thailand to explore for oil, develop a network of service stations and supply oil products in aviation.

The Philippines, once a serious contender on Kuwait's target list, is no longer an option as the government of Corazon Aquino decided against selling a portion of its refining and marketing operation.

But Kuwait remains faithful to its own style of operation it would want to go it alone. It has always looked for opportunities to buy refineries and take over marketing companies. It has not responded to joint venture proposals from Eastern Europe but made at least two bids, unsuccessful though, to buy refineries and distribution facilities in the US. Their insistence on full acquisitions, which at times seems to harm their prospects for overseas downstream expansion, stems from a desire to have full control over their refining and especially marketing operation.

If Kuwait remains faithful to its own style of operation it would want to go it alone. It has always looked for opportunities to buy refineries and take over marketing companies. It has not responded to joint venture proposals from Eastern Europe but made at least two bids, unsuccessful though, to buy refineries and distribution facilities in the US. Their insistence on full acquisitions, which at times seems to harm their prospects for overseas downstream expansion, stems from a desire to have full control over their refining and especially marketing operation.

"If you want control then you don't go into joint ventures" said one analyst.

Sheikh Ali said last year that Kuwait shied away from joint ventures, a policy which in his view had paid dividends. "Now we are in a position where we have a nice international system with good staff, with an organization we are comfortable with, completely internalized, with no partner to quarrel with in terms

of which area to develop ... with no conflict of interest with anybody," he was quoted as saying. Analysts say that Kuwaitis insist on making all decisions in shaping its own marketing strategy.

"Joint ventures in exploration and refining rely on cost sharing. But marketing is a much more creative area and there is large potential for a difference in opinion on how to win a market. It is difficult to find two companies which would agree on marketing objectives," said the KPC executive.

Kuwait's individualistic approach has often prompted comparisons with that of Saudi Arabia which set up a joint venture with Texaco US in 1988 gaining access to more than 11,000 service stations in 23 states.

Analysts claim that the joint ventures was the result of a political decision based on a special relationship the Saudis have with their Aramco partners. In fact Texaco, which then suffered severe losses, needed the Saudis as much as the Saudis, with their downstream drive, needed the Americans.

Rather than seek to be entirely in charge, the Saudis thought it was no small feat to win a strategic foothold in the US market and a right to have a say in the debate about the future of the oil industry.

It was in search for guaranteed export markets that both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia sought to acquire foreign downstream assets but each country looked for a different set of side benefits. For example the Saudis, who have many more nationals working in their oil industry than the Kuwaitis have to their own, are using the joint venture to groom a new breed of professionals modelled on the American pattern.

"For the Saudis the joint venture is part of the learning process," said one analyst.

Kuwaitis, he said are content to occupy top management positions, and hire foreign professionals for specialised jobs. On the other hand Kuwaitis are extremely proud of selling under their own brand name, Q-8, and scoff at the Saudis whose name does not even figure on their petrol stations in the US.

As both countries seek to move into the new markets they are painfully aware of the resistance and suspicion they face.

Japanese analysts have already noted with some trepidation that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia want to extend their control of crude products.

The Americans did not hide their concern when the Saudis struck a deal with Texaco. They resented their growing dependence on foreign oil, called for the protection of their own battered oil production industry and feared the producer will indulge in discounting crude and product prices.

"All this noise about the threat Opec members pose with their investments in the US is a lot of baloney," said one Kuwait-based analyst. "European countries account for about 90 percent of the total foreign investment in the US oil industry."

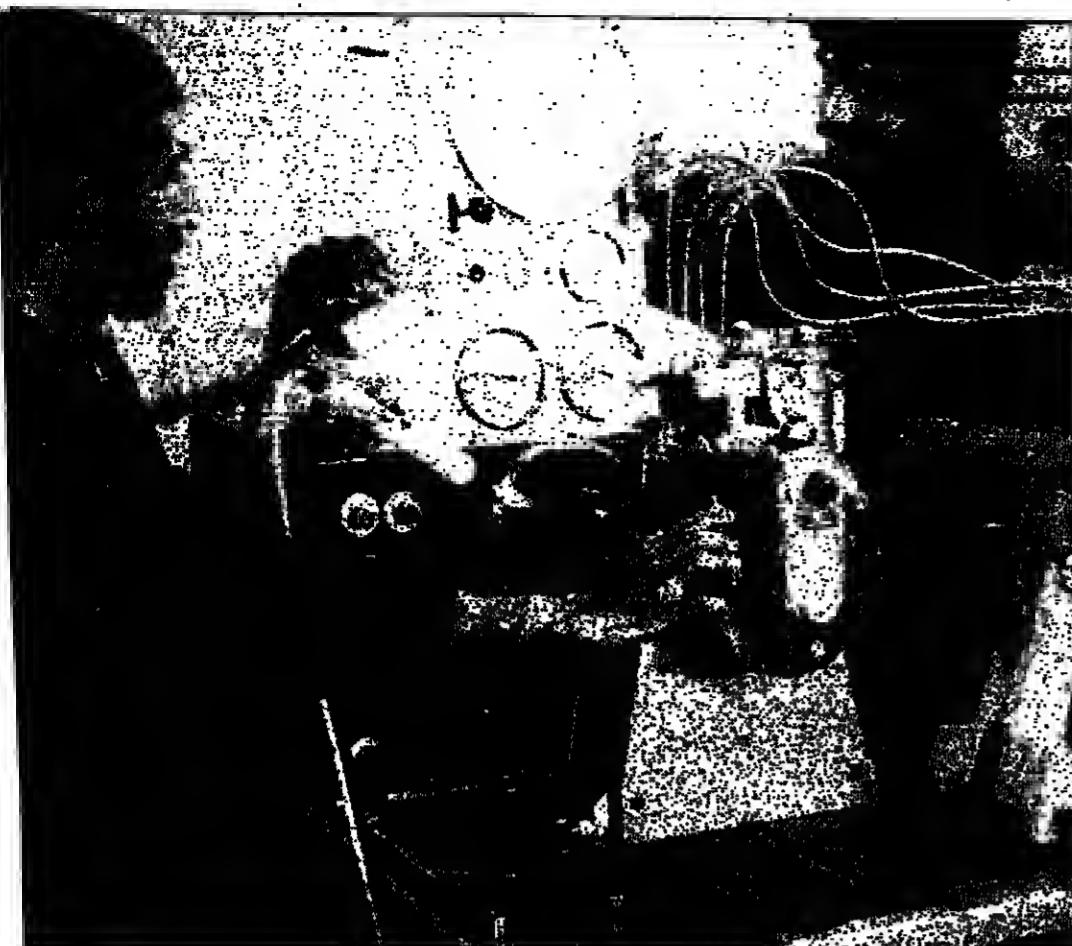
This has been confirmed by Pierre Terzian a Paris-based oil expert. He was quoted as saying last year that at the end of 1988 Opec controlled about 8 percent of refining capacity in the US.

And speaking of the four oil producers (Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Libya and Venezuela) share in the European downstream he said they represented together the equivalent of a company about the size of Agip in the EEC oil market.

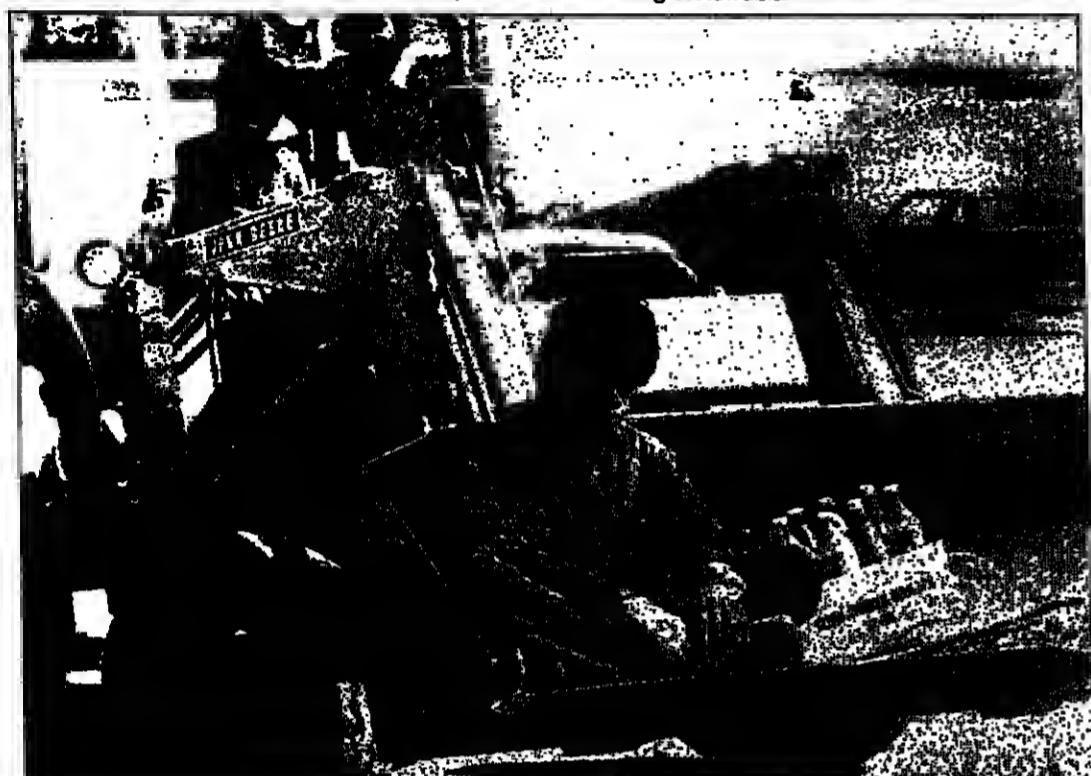
Nevertheless, both Kuwaitis and Saudis sought to reassure their hosts, emphasizing their commitment to their partners' markets. And they did with a certain amount of success. Said the Kuwait oil executive who until recently headed KPC's European operations.

"European Economic Community now says that if all oil producers acted in the same manner as Kuwait, they have nothing to fear. We have long-term interests in Europe. When you sell crude you are committed to your customer. Our commitment in Europe is to the market." Japan's

are you listening?



The state emphasises the training of Kuwaitis.



Planners feel dependence on expatriate labourers will curb the development of the national workforce.

## Banking

## Sprucing up the money market

By Jadranka Porter  
Arab Times staff

KUWAIT has pulled out from its archives one of its pet schemes and hopes it could turn it into a panacea for its ailing banking sector.

But analysts suspect that bank mergers, the latest in a string of hotly debated proposals aimed at boosting the sector, may end up like some other schemes before it, back on the shelf.

Whatever has happened to Kuwait's free trade zone and its transformation into the regional financial centre, they ask.

They recognise the potential for growth through mergers but have doubts about the calibre and management style of top executives who would be entrusted with putting the scheme into action. They question the logic behind plans to merge small inefficient banks into what could easily become one big inefficient bank. They urge the authorities to dismantle banking controls and open the market to foreign banks. This, they say, would drastically improve efficiency and encourage mergers.

Barely two months ago some of the top brass spoke about mergers with finality. It was the question of "when is the signing ceremony," noted one observer.

Today the top executives deny that they came so close to making a deal. And with a good reason, too. For just as the finance houses were getting serious about blending their operations someone pointed out that the whole thing is illegal. Mergers had to be put off until legal framework for the scheme is devised. How long will that be anyone's guess. If passing of the legislation on mutual funds is any indication it might take rather long. A year ago it was announced that the law was ready and was only awaiting a formal endorsement. It has not been passed yet.

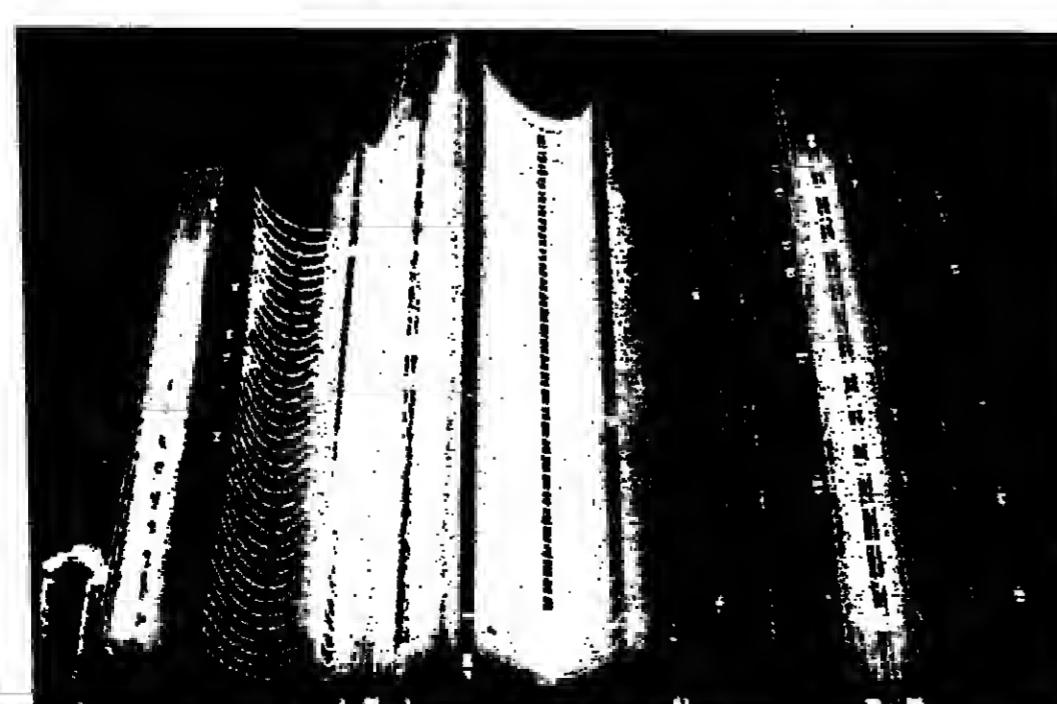
Most bankers agree that mergers make sense, especially in the overbanked Kuwait. Arguments in favour say that Kuwait could benefit from having bigger banks, with larger deposit base and assets. Successful mergers could combine the services whereby the weaknesses of one merged bank would be compensated for by the strength of the other. Mergers would improve Kuwait's banking image and

strengthen its banks' position on international markets. And although they could lead to staff reductions this could be avoided if the banks took on new functions. Natural attrition as well would take care of some of the staff reductions. "Mergers are possible without too much bleeding," said one analyst.

The idea of bank mergers has been around for years. But it was never seriously considered partly because it implied forcible redundancies. Also, the scheme never captured the imagination of Finance Minister Jassim Al Khorafi and for a long time it did not have the backing of the Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah. The promoters of the concept, however, managed to win Sheikh Salem over.

He recently said mergers of the commercial banks will be among the factors that would ensure a better use of Central Bank subsidies. Mergers, he said, would boost the financial position of these banks and give them a competitive edge in foreign markets.

The authorities are particularly concerned to see the National Bank of Kuwait, the only commercial bank that firmly stands on its feet and can compete abroad, merge with a smaller bank. But the well managed and prosperous NBK sees no urgency for such a move.



Joint-Banking Complex illuminated for the National Day celebrations.

## Stress on reducing the gap

By Fathima Ahmed  
Arab Times staff

LIKE other Gulf states, Kuwait, has depended on expatriate manpower to push forward its various developmental schemes. Between 1975 and 1985 the labour population of Kuwait grew dramatically by 71 per cent, mainly due to an open-door policy.

But, Kuwait now can't afford to keep its doors open, say planners, who are putting the final touches to a long-term strategy to reduce the population imbalance.

Kuwaitis form 28 per cent of the total population, and constitute only 14 per cent of the total workforce. The rest is made up of foreign workers from Arab, Asian and European countries.

The problem of population has been created because of an influx of migrants. Kuwait needs a selective immigration policy more than any other country," said Fuad Mulla Hussain, secretary-general of the Higher Planning Council.

Basically, the government wants to curb migrant flow by selecting the type of workers required by the economy. For example, Kuwait requires 3,000 doctors, it has only 600.

Ever since oil wealth transformed the economy expatriates — or foreign workers — have been playing a vital role in the country's development. Planners believe that the country would need expatriate manpower, at least, for the next 25 years.

## Composition

The Higher Planning Council is working on the next five-year plan, to be completed by March, outlining ways to reduce the imbalance. A balanced population is the need of the hour. And as such, a bigger role for the Kuwaitis is envisaged in the economic fabric, particularly in the private sector, which is presently dominated by expatriates.

Expatriates make up 86 per cent of Kuwait's workforce, holding a virtual monopoly in the construction, trading and manufacturing sectors. These sectors account for 44 per cent of the total foreign workforce in the country. Nearly 43 per cent of the expatriate labour is concentrated in the service and personal services sector.

During the decade from 1975 to 1985 there has been a dramatic change in the labour composition in Kuwait: Asian countries, which have an unending supply of cheap and efficient labour, became major exporters. India and Pakistan, which held sway over the labour market, began competing with the Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka and to some extent Indonesia and Thailand. The Far Eastern countries jumped into the market with relatively cheap and equally efficient labour. The labour market became highly competitive with Asians nearly doubling their numbers from 20.97 per cent to 42.19 per cent. The Arab numbers fell from 49.17 to 37.72 per cent.

A study done by Kuwait's Central Statistical Office in 1987 says that "most part of the economy would not survive without the import of the foreign workforce." This is not surprising, considering the low density of the native population, and the relative inactivity of the productive labour force. In comparison with non-Kuwaiti activity rate of 53.5 per cent, Kuwaitis attain only 18.6 per cent, largely due to a large percentage of nationals being underemployed and studying and the relatively low female participation in the workforce.

Concern is mounting about the imbalance between the national and foreign workforce. Foreigners account for 72 per cent of Kuwait's total population of 1.9 million. The demographic imbalance, which emerged in 1975, is the key issue of the recently proposed provisional long-term development strategy.

Kuwaiti numbers rose by about 12 per cent between 1985-1988. However, there was a slight increase in the number of expatriate manpower over the same period.

Kuwaitis in 1988 were up by 1.8 per cent from 40.14 per cent in 1985, according to a field survey done by the Ministry of Planning. In the same year (1988) Kuwaiti workforce rose from 18.9 percent in 1985 to 21.9 per cent.

## Role

To reduce dependence on foreign manpower, the government has taken several steps, such as allocating a sum of KD29 million to the Civil Service Commission to create jobs for the Kuwaitis. Over the last four years, about KD100 million has been spent by the government to employ Kuwaiti graduates.

The government plans to trim the number of foreign public servants and reorganise the bloated civil service. In 1987, the total number of civil servants were 160,294. Of these 76,429 were expatriates, excluding those holding special occupations

in the military, judicial and diplomatic services.

Planners are worried about the role of foreign labourers in the Gulf countries. In a recent study Iraq warned Gulf states of the so-called "dangers posed by foreigners in Gulf and Arab societies." Such fears are also voiced by Kuwaiti sociologists, who feel that a drastic change in the demographic structure must be made to offset the influence of foreign cultures on their country.

The government's clearcut strategy is to reduce dependence on foreign workers by encouraging nationals to replace them; revive motivation among nationals and reduce consumerism.

The plan has been put into action. One of the latest moves, the biggest drive so far, is to encourage the private sector to give jobs to Kuwaitis, by giving government subsidies to those companies employing nationals.

Another strategy is to change attitudes, through a series of educational and awareness campaigns to appreciate the value of work and imbue the young generation with a lesser reliance on government as a distributor of wealth.

The most important step to regulate the flow of manpower was the March 1989 amended labour law, tightening the rules for the

immigration of foreign workers.

recruitment of new labourers. Stringent controls, some officials say, have curbed the flow of migrants.

## Import

Employers have been urged to "look within the country" and then in Gulf states before importing foreign labourers. The repercussions on business are severe, businessmen say. Import of cheap labour enabled firms to cut costs; now this cannot be done as the prevailing market rate salaries will have to be paid if nationals are employed, they say.

The free flow of labourers in the market has been restricted under a rule that prohibits transfer from one sponsor to another before completing three years service. Exception to the rule are those workers who have stayed in the country for 10 years.

Such measures will help to reduce the imbalance, but it will take a long time for that to happen.

The government policy is also two-pronged: firstly, to increase productivity and secondly, to discourage permanent settlement of foreigners.

Efforts to improve productivity of Kuwaiti manpower include improving their occupational and sectoral mobility; stress on vocational training and redefining social welfare schemes.

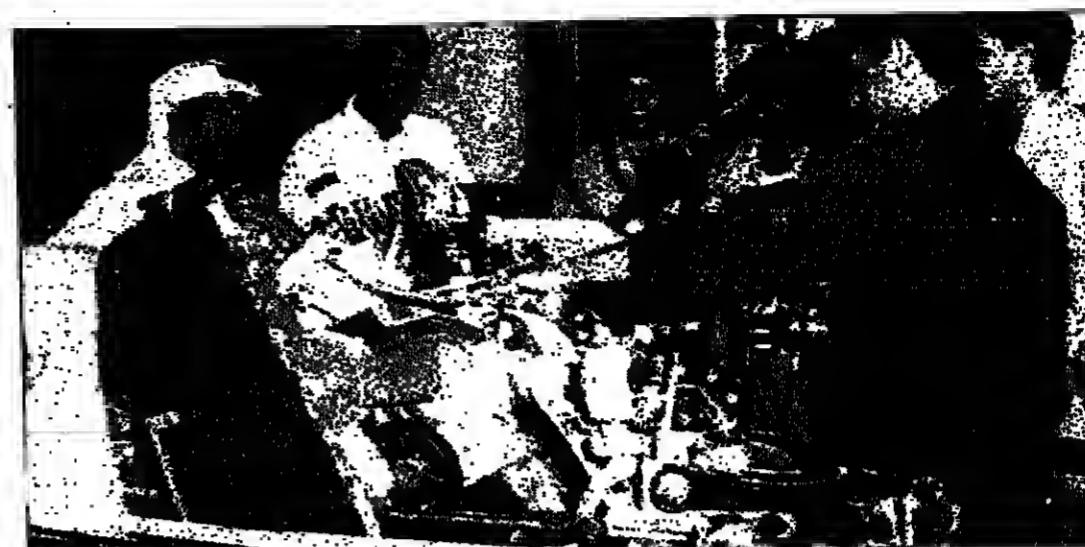
Stringent controls on migration imposed during first five years plan (1985 to 1990) to reduce population imbalance have begun to show results. Officials say that the growth of expatriate manpower dropped from 7.5 per cent in 1985 to 3.8 per cent of the total national workforce.

The government policy is also two-pronged: firstly, to increase productivity and secondly, to discourage permanent settlement of foreigners.

Planners expect a demographic balance to emerge by the year 2000.

Some planners, however, are sceptical. Despite the difference of opinion, all agree that it is imperative to reduce the wide gap between nationals and expatriates. Planners admit this can't be done overnight.

But say, the first step towards achieving it has been taken.



Students training to join the active workforce.

Sincere greetings and best wishes

To His Highness  
**Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad  
Al Jaber Al Sabah**  
Amir of the State of KuwaitAnd His Highness  
**Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah Al Sabah**  
Crown Prince and Prime Minister

and to the government and people of Kuwait on the occasion of

29TH NATIONAL DAY

مكتبة الكويت المركبة  
KUWAIT GULF AIRCONDITIONING EST.

P.O. Box: 4941 Safat 13050 Safat — Kuwait

Tel.: 2440686-2408061-2408062

Fax: 2408063

Maintenance Tel: 2409104 — 2409105

# Kuwait's motorways and roads among the best in the Gulf



Extensive road network links major suburbs and new towns

## Arab Times report

THERE is one car for every three people in Kuwait, according to a traffic survey. It said there were 543,615 in 1986, the year when the survey was done. That year, another 44,328 new vehicles were registered by the traffic department. Despite the large number of cars on the roads, the accident rate has fallen steadily over the years, due to stringent controls and well-planned roads, it said.

Kuwait's motorways and roads are said to be among the best in the Gulf. Kuwait has more than 3,800 kms of interchanges and flyovers, including 160 kms motorway. The average width of a road is about 10 metres.

Kuwait's planners in 1972 prepared a master plan in recommending a complete redevelopment of the road network to facilitate speedy and smooth traffic movement to and from Kuwait City, linking major suburbs and areas in the country.

The plan, based on an estimated urban growth over a period of 20 years, envisaged an effective road system to link satellite towns and commercial centres.

A loop around Kuwait City is to be built to act as a wheel whose spokes will link other parts of the country.

The First Ring Road will be extended to surround Kuwait City, beginning at Jahra Gate to serve as a sort of inner ring road from the Sheratoo roundabout



Roads: yesterday and today

along the present road leading to Dasman roundabout, running outward toward the souk area. It will run parallel to the Arabian Gulf Road. This network is expected to minimise traffic congestion in the city area.

This is part of an intensive road construction programme, begun in 1977, is expected to be completed by the end of this year, extending the motorways to about 360 kms. The network comprises 150 flyovers, with a concrete bridge and tunnel each one kilometre long and 30 pedestrian crossings. These networks are expected to cost KD600 million. In 1986, a budget of KD300 million was allocated to expand the network.

The road network has been designed like a wheel, whose spokes are expressways and motorways leading to all parts of the country.

The first spoke of the wheel from the east is the Fahheel

Expressway, which has been upgraded to the level of a motorway. Parallel to this is the Maghrab motorway, which meets the Assafar motorway leading to Almadi and beyond to the towns of Khairan and Nuwaiseeb.

Next comes the Riyadha motorway, running from the south from the First Ring Road to the Fourth Ring Road, intertwined with flyovers, this motorway snakes its way across 5 kms and was built at a cost of KD27 million.

Then comes the Ghazali Expressway, running from Shuwaikh Port to the Sixth Ring Road. Another road links Sabah Hospital to the Sixth Ring Road.

The Fahheel, north and south, was opened in 1988. The 21.5 km north road runs from the intersection of the Fahheel motorway with Fifth Ring Road to Mahboola. It includes a part of the Sixth Ring Road to the Assafar motorway. It was built

at a cost of KD23 million. The southern link begins at Mahboola and extends to the intersection of the Fahheel motorway with the Mina Abdulla-Wafra road. The 20 km roadway, with seven flyovers and six pedestrian bridges, was built at a cost of KD23.7 million.

The Jahra Road becomes the Jahra motorway, with an interchange leading to Doha, eventually linking the new Subiya town.

The Fifth Ring Road, running from Sulalibkhati links the Fahheel Expressway, and the Sixth Ring Road runs from the Misilah roundabout to Doha and joins the Jahra motorway, extending to Jahra and the Subiya townships.

There will also be three parallel roads, running east to west.

The 29 km Seventh Ring Road runs to the north of Fintas, intersecting with an external road.

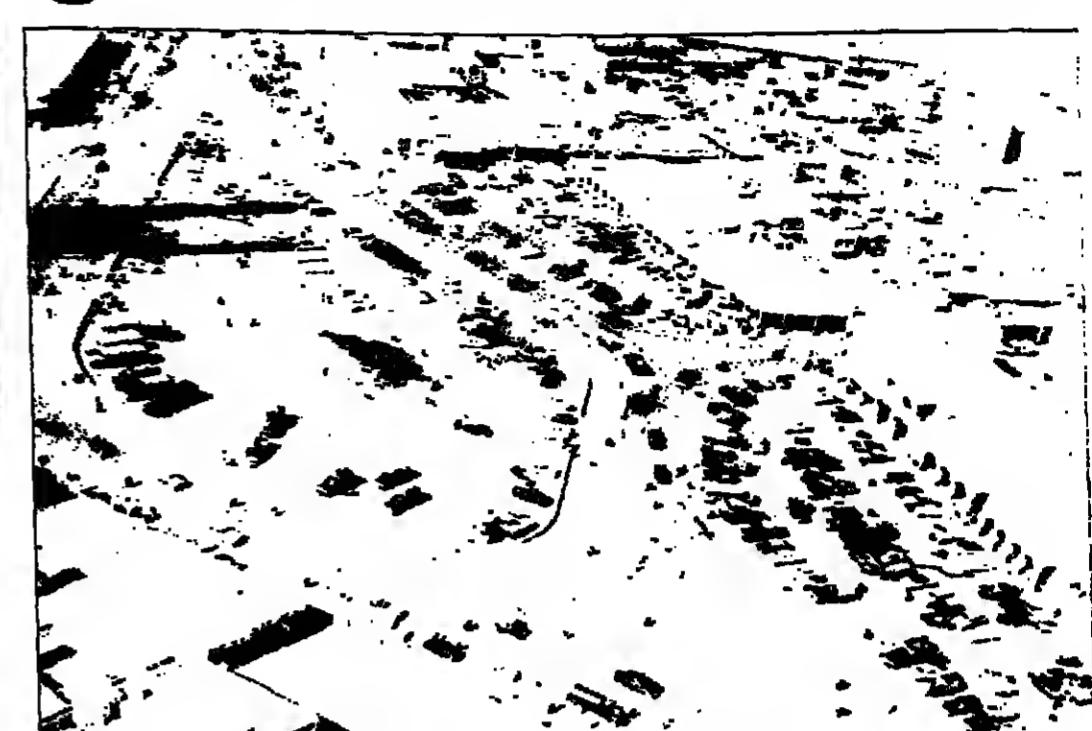
Setting with an external road. This was built at a cost of KD16 million.

The Istimail Expressway from Kuwait City to Wafra, later to link an international road, is now under construction. This network is expected to provide an uninterrupted flow of traffic from the heart of Kuwait City to the south of the country.

Other projects are linked to the Istimail Expressway. These include linking the eastern part of the Sixth Ring Road-Fintas to join Assafar motorway to the north and south of Fintas. This project is estimated to cost KD65 million.

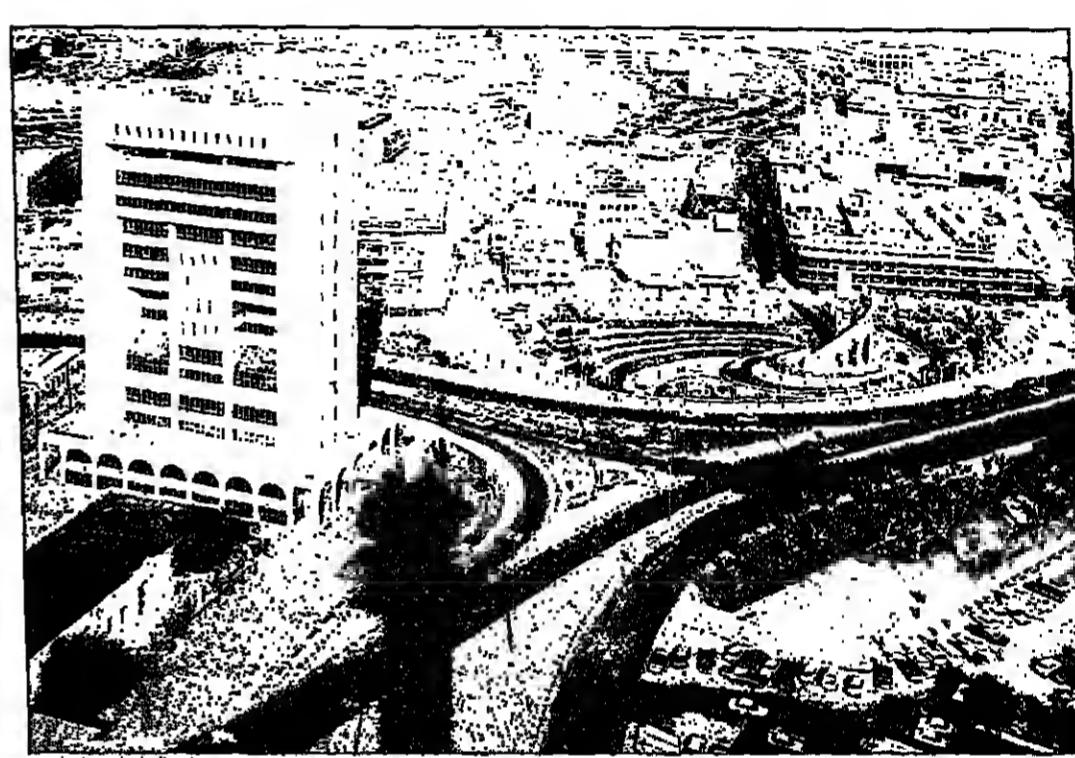
The outer-bypass network swings all the way around Kuwait to link Kuwait with its neighbours — Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The first 118 km dual-carriageway extends as far as the Iraqi border; the second 95 km road goes west towards Salim and the Saudi border; the third 107 km road runs south toward Nuwaiseeb and the Saudi border. This network is an extension of the motorway linking Kuwait and Mina Abdullah and the oil industrial centres. This network is used by heavy trucks and transit traffic.

Kuwaitis are justifiably proud of the technical excellence of the road system, notably the multi-level interchanges and flyovers, which enable motorists to carry on their love-affair with the automobiles, while, hopefully restraining their passion for speed in the interests of safety.



Above: Safat Square in the 1950s;

(below) after re-development in the 1980s.



## شركة صرافية الحبيب المحدودة Habib Exchange Co. Ltd.

Extend their  
heartiest felicitations

To

His Highness, the Amir of Kuwait  
Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah  
His Highness, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister  
Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah

The government and to the people of Kuwait on  
the occasion of their country's



29th  
National  
Day

A trusted name for last two decades for remittances  
to all over the world

## Habib Exchange Company Ltd.

HEAD OFFICE: Al Hilali St., Murrabah, P.O. Box 22605 Safat, 13087 Kuwait. Tel. 2416803, 2417249. Fax: 2416379

- BRANCHES
- Murrabah — Tel: 2423639 - 2423639
- Fahheel — Tel: 3914825 - 3922291
- Mubarik Al-Kabir Street — Tel: 2418731

- Fahd Al Salem Street — Tel: 2411839 - 2418106
- Khafra — Tel: 4745550 - 4747168
- Jaleeb Al Shiyookh — Tel: 4337440

## Co-operative spirit strengthens

FROM a movement started in a school, the co-operative societies have spread to encompass nearly all economic and social activities. The seeds of the movement were sown 50 years ago, when in 1941, the Mubarak School set up its first co-operative. In the early fifties, other schools followed its example and set up similar co-ops with students contributing utensils and food for sale. At the end of the year, the profits were divided among the shareholders.

From this experiment, emerged the wider concept of the co-operative movement. The co-operative spirit was prevalent among the people of Kuwait long before the 1940s, inculcated by their social values based on Islamic teaching which urged co-operation and cohesion. The harsh living conditions in the pre-oil era also forced the concept of economic and social co-operation.

After the success of the school co-operative experiment, the first such society was formed at the Social Affairs Department in 1955. This was followed by a similar one in the educational department.

However, following Kuwait's independence in 1961, members of the Constituent Assembly gave particular importance to the idea of co-operatives and included an article in the country's constitution committing the state to encouraging co-operative movements.

After the issuance of the first co-operative law, the first co-operative society was formed in 1962 in Kifan. This was followed by Shamiya, which later merged with the Shuwaikh one, and then the Dasmia society was formed in 1964.

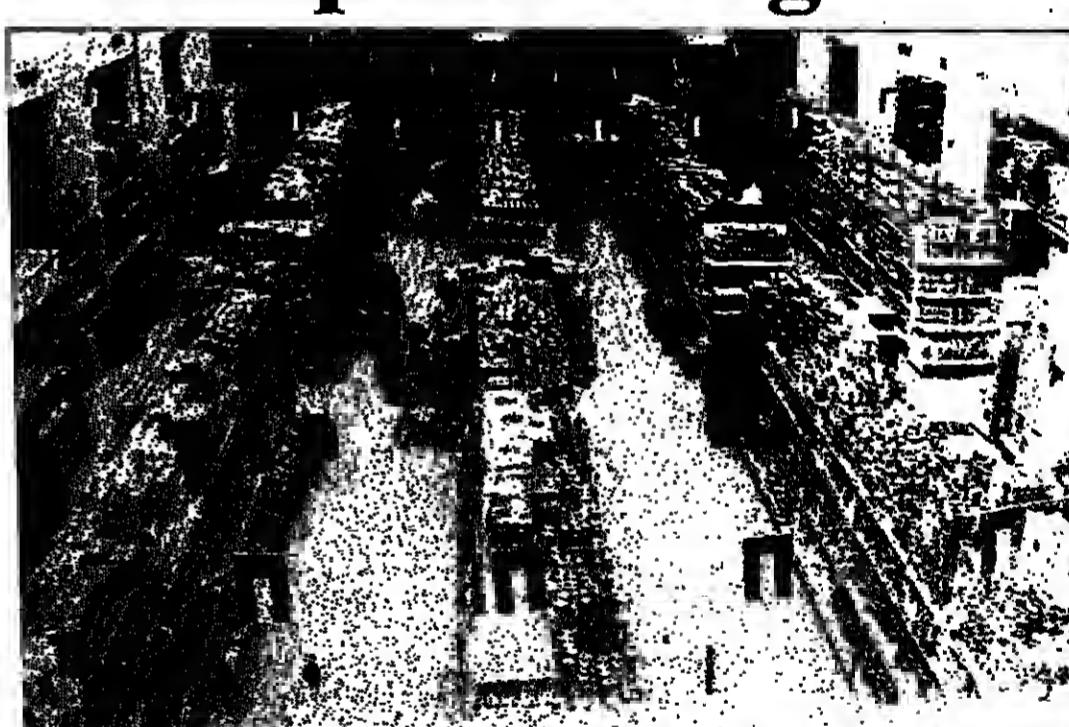
In 1979, Law No. 24 was issued including new rules and regulations to cope with the development of the country's co-operative movement.

Four kinds of co-operatives are currently active in Kuwait including consumer, agriculture, production and marketing and the saving co-ops.

Some 40 co-operative societies spread their supermarkets over most areas of Kuwait providing food and other consumer items to the public with a membership of 161,358 citizens.

The co-ops further supply consumer products subsidised by the government and allocate 20 per cent of their profits for spending on their suburb's social, cultural and entertainment services.

The societies, which created their union in 1971, supply 70 per cent of the society and the individual's needs of services and



The first co-operative was set up at a school; today, there are several branches in every suburb of Kuwait.

The co-operative movement in Kuwait has grown beyond expectations and is now a part of the country's social and economic fabric. Kuna spotlights the growth of the movement over the decades...



Co-operative societies have become an economic pillar.

As for the agricultural co-ops they manage 2835 plantations (1988).

The co-ops cover a portion of the local market's needs of a

number of products. According to 1986 statistics, they supply 45 per cent of eggs, 40 per cent of poultry, 25 per cent of fresh milk, 39 per cent of tomatoes, 20 per cent of vegetables, 11 per cent of mutton and 6 per cent of beef of the overall domestic needs.

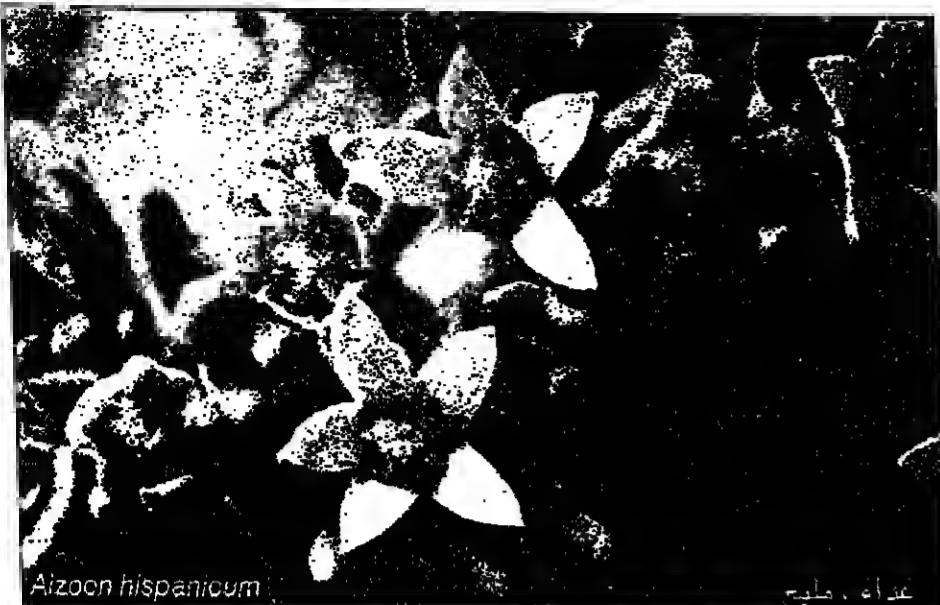
The figures are high if the climatic conditions and short period of existence are taken into consideration and demonstrate future prospects of food security.

The co-operative society of production and marketing was established in 1984 to co-ordinate production and consumption by directly linking the production societies to the local market.

The co-operative society for savings was created in 1965 with a capital of KD8,960 grouping all Kuwaiti civil servants of both sexes.

The society targets elevating its members' economic and social levels by way of providing them with a sum of money at end of their service, or if they were fired or suspended from work because of illness or other reasons.

The co-operative movement in Kuwait, despite its relatively short life has secured economic and social accomplishments surpassing expectations. It has helped in fair distribution of the country's wealth, contributed to boosting local products and national exports and endorsed the value of co-operation and cohesion in the Kuwaiti individual.



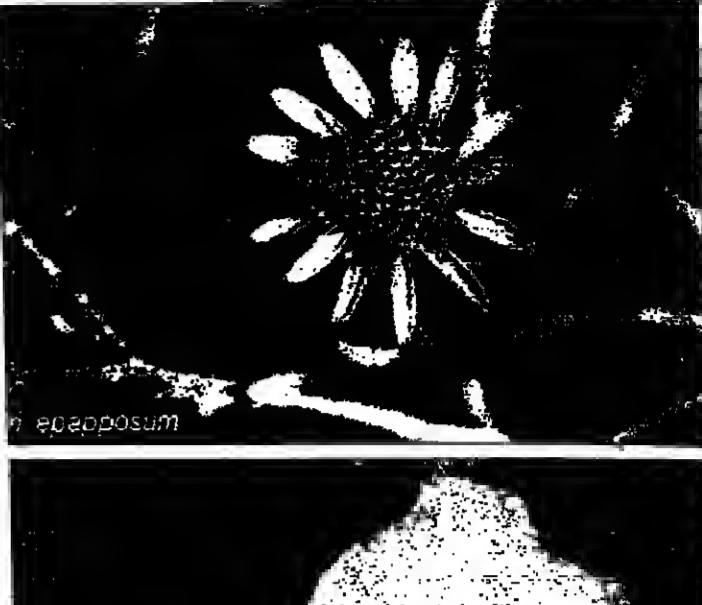
Aizoon hispanicum



Launaea mucronata



Scabiosa olivieri



Scopossum



Anthemis deserti



Tamarix passerinoides



Rumex vesicarius

The desert comes alive with colourful plants in the months of January, February and March. In spring it is transformed into amazingly green meadows, particularly in Wadi Al Batin which is landscaped with a spectacular carpet of yellow camomile. Some 400 species of plants and flowers, including Arfaj and Aswad grow. Some flowers and plants are used as herbal remedies by bedouin. Urban expansion, overgrazing and pollution now threaten some of the plants with extinction.

Photographs by Bader Al Hajji

## Wildflowers

By Diana Abou Haidar  
Arab Times staff

A VISITOR to Kuwait's desert in the spring would find a wide array of beautiful plants and flowers that come to life after the rain season. Some of these plants are seasonal and short-lived, while others are perennial because of their deep roots and their ability to survive on the little water in the soil and air moisture. Such plants also have the ability to become dormant in the summer when the weather is too hot.

This is what Sameera Omar, researcher at Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, says in the introduction to her book "Wild Plants of Kuwait."

The 270-page book published in Arabic by KISR and the Environment Protection Council aims at introducing the local flora to the public and providing researchers and concerned authorities with a reference on this national resource.

Although a lot has been written about the subject, "Wild Plants of Kuwait" offers a unique and complete pictorial record of these plants and their locations, in addition to descriptions of Kuwait's weather, geography and topography and how they affect these plants.

A 115 locations around the country were surveyed. The surface area of Kuwait (17,600 km<sup>2</sup>)

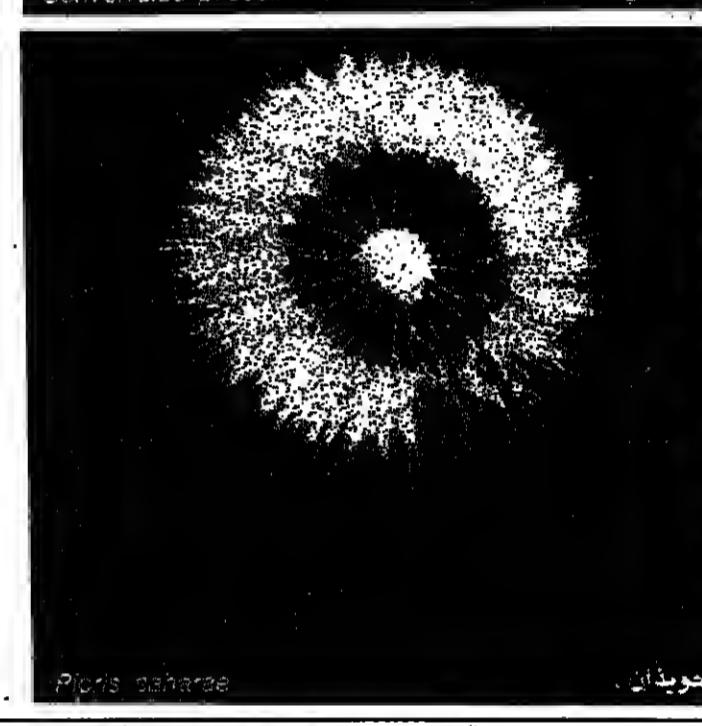
was divided into 6 areas each of which was given a colour corresponding to the colour of a chapter of the book that contains the pictures and the information on the plants. Such information includes the local name (in English and Arabic), the scientific name, and a description of the location. The book also includes an appendix that gives a brief description of the plants and their different uses such as medical, grazing, food, cosmetic or burning for fuel.

Among the most common plants is Arfaj. Its yellow flower that blossoms in April, has been chosen as the national flower. Arfaj dries out in the summer and bedouins burn it for fuel or store it for animal feed. Akheil is another common plant. It is 5 to 20 cms high and has little yellow flowers. Bedouin women use its red roots for cosmetic purposes. Khel grows in January and dies in April.

Kozama is a rare plant. It has wide leaves and violet-colour flowers. It is good for grazing. Another rare plant is Kahsioe which grows 20 to 40 cms high and is considered a good grazing plant for sheep and goats.

Omar says that some of the plants described in the book face the threat of extinction especially those in the southeastern and southwestern areas of the country because of overgrazing and increasing human activities.

Convolvulus pilosellatus



Pistia latifolia

## Building homes for all....

By Lima Al Khalafawi  
Arab Times staff

A HOME for all. This is the policy of the government of Kuwait. A curious kind of raffle takes place from time to time. The unusual thing about this is that there are no losers. A thousand or more people are given a number, and each time, a number is pulled out of a drum. The candidate approaches a large board and selects a house which is to be his home.

What people want, people get. The government is granting under the pressure. The problem, it seems, is paucity of land. In view of this, planners may make some fundamental changes for overall improvement of the housing programme. These include developing run down settlements, particularly in the

Jahra area. Minister of State for Housing, Nasser Abdullah Al Roudhan, has said that one solution is to re-develop run down localities, particularly in the Jahra suhur. In the pipeline are three housing projects in Jahra.

These, and other provisions, are included in the fourth five-year plan of the National Housing Authority (NHA). The plan is tailored to suit the growing needs and envisages urban growth in remote areas, including Watai, northeast Sawaber, Maqsa, north Andalus, Wafra, south Hadiya, Khairan, Falakha, Hadiya, Sulabikhat, Umm Al Haiman, Al Na'ima and other areas.

An average of 14,500 applications are expected for land, apartments and villas. Under the plan, 27,227 housing units

would be built at a cost of KD60,000 per home. About KD1.62 billion has been allocated to complete the projects in the fourth five-year plan.

The plan proposes speedy development of remote areas and new cities. It suggested more job opportunities in the new cities for families, who would be lured by work and a better lifestyle.

The houses will be designed with a provision for extending the units in case the need arises.

It is still somewhat unclear whether Kuwait has a housing problem or not. On one hand there are thousands of candidates on the waiting list. On the other hand, there are nearly 20,000 vacant apartments.

What irks the government most is that those who obtained government housing are many

who do not value the house they got. In some cases, the attitude has resulted in financial loss for the government, when the owners demolish the house and rebuild it according to their taste.

The government has provided homes for more than 300,000 people since independence. More than two thirds of these received their homes after the formation of the NHA in 1974.

The government expenditure on housing reached KD1,004 billion with the budget steadily rising.

The immediate problem is land. NHA has used up all its land allocated for projects to be completed this year. About 12,415 housing units, 20 mosques, 35 schools, two commercial complexes and five principal suburb projects are to be implemented under the 1985/1990 third five years' plan.

**SPREAD YOUR WINGS ON BIMAN**

**Congratulations**  
**Kuwait,**  
**on your**  
**National Day.**

**Biman**  
BANGLADESH AIRLINES  
AL HUMAIZI BUILDING, ALSOOR STREET, P.O.BOX 23837, SAFAT, 13099 KUWAIT. PHONE: 2426846/7, 2439764

JOHN LEWIS

## Heritage

## Pearl diving: keeping alive a tradition

Although the pearl trade was in decline in the 1930s, it was still an activity in which practically every family in Kuwait had a stake, and its traditional importance to the town was shown by the fact that the Sheikh himself sailed down to the pearl banks at the end of the season and gave a signal for the fleet to return to port. Then, every boat would hoist sail and make for Kuwait with all speed, while the wives whose men had been absent for four months would hurry down to the seaport in their best clothes and welcome the boats home with drums and waving banners. This was recorded by Zahra Freeth and Victor Winston in their book "Kuwait: — Prospect and Reality."

Pearling is no longer the backbone of the economy, but it still retains its charm and excitement for a handful of people who encourage the young to take up "bobby-diving" — not in traditional boats like the "Al Seib," "Al Sonbouk," "Shee," "Jalbou" or "Bagara" of old — but on motor vessels equipped with the best equipment.

Before the First World War, Kuwait had more than 700 boats, and between 10,000 and 15,000 crew and divers. Sometimes people from Iraq and Nigra came over to Kuwait to try their luck at pearls.

By the 1930s, Kuwait like Bahrain, witnessed a slump in the industry and its fleet fell to only 330 boats. The emergence of oil wealth, and the popularity of cultured pearls, resulted in a world slump in the pearl market. This, in turn, affected pearling. And, ended a period of 800 years when pearling was the main industry in Kuwait.

Pearl diving dates back in Kuwait to 1125 AD (1713 hijra) and became increasingly important to the country's economy and its people's livelihood.

## Season

The main pearling season was from May to September. For four months, divers remained at sea, searching for what they called "Tears of the Moon" beneath the waters. Pearl divers were mercenaries, though by no means rich. They drew their wages and settled for a share of the deep, of which the ship's owner and shore-side merchants took by far the greatest portion.

In a bad year, and there would be many, there was no reward at all for their toil. Indeed, often they left in debt to the ship's captain who supplied their provisions. It was a debt which bound them to serve with the same captain the next year in payment.



Kuwait is now reviving pearl diving, which was once the backbone of the economy. In the last three years, the heritage revival society has been holding "pearl diving festivals" to encourage the young Kuwaitis to participate in keeping alive a tradition.

Pearl diving in Kuwait dates back to 1125 AD and sustained the economy until the 1930s, when it declined. As late as the 1920s, Kuwait earned more than a million pounds per year from pearling, Fathima Ahmed reports:



*El Geis* were the divers and the *El Seib* (haulers) were people who helped divers.

## Catch

The "tebab" was the entertainer-cum-cook on board the dhows. His cuisine wasn't much to write home about but with his songs, taken up by the divers, he left a legacy to cultural traditions.

The size of the boat ranged from 30 to 60 feet and the larger ones carried more than two hundred men of whom only three were the *Al Nukheda* (captain), *Al Jaedi* (second-in-command) and *El Mejadima* (chief officer).

command and the divers got three shares each. Sailors were given one share each.

The divers, for fear of fatal cramps, lived on minimum food for the entire season. Sickness, skin diseases and scurvy were common ailments. Divers knew the dangers of diving too deep or surfacing too rapidly.

It was an arduous job — and many pearl-divers died young. Their health ruined by malnutrition and the rigorous life of the deep.

They worked in an area about a hundred miles south of Kuwait, in forty feet deep waters. They

were naked, except for a loin cloth and wore long leather thimbles over their fingers. They descended to the seabed on a heavy stone, attached to a rope on the boat, their nostrils closed by a wooden clip. They carried knives to slice the oysters on the seabed, which they had to do quickly and expertly while their breath lasted.

They carried small baskets around their necks to store their catch. The *El Seib* on the dhow pulled them up after each dive. When they could not stay down any longer, divers sometimes surfaced unaided. They worked six to eight hours a day with only

periods of rest. Pearling was carried out according to ancient rituals. The *Al Seib* and *Al Geis* remained a distinct group; neither did the work of the workers.

Oysters brought from the seabed were tossed on the decks and not touched until an appointed hour. It was a custom not to open oysters until late evening of early morning. They also carried a Holy Quran, hung from the awning struts of the stern of the boat. The captain read it to the crew in the evenings.

When the boat returned to shore to the beat of drums and the laughter of the women, dressed in finery, the pearl divers paid a tax known as "Giza," levied according to the size of the catch.

The highest yield of pearls recorded in Kuwait was in 1912 — in what was a period of pearl boom. Kuwaitis earned more than a million pounds per year from pearling.

Home to the boats were Kuwait's harbours — Neghat Al Shehlan, Al Nesif Ghani, Ahmed Abu Muhsin Al Kharafi and Naser Al Badar.

Pearls are still sold on the market still retain a magic allure quite different from precious stones. Perhaps, it is in the difference between that which is backed from the mundane earth and that taken from the mystery of the sea.



The doctor-patient ratio allows for good medical care

## Healthy growth

THE development of health services has kept pace with the growth of Kuwait. "Health for all by the year 2000" is the goal of the Public Health Ministry. Health care has been given top priority, with the government allocating massive funds for constantly upgrading medical facilities and services.

The health sector takes a big chunk of the state expenditure annually. Health care costs, which were around KD 100 million in 1974/75 reached KD 676.5 million by 1984/85. This constitutes about 6.5 per cent of the country's budget.

According to 1986 statistics, there are 17 hospitals with a capacity of 5,440 beds, 62 clinics, 157 dental clinics, 22 maternity centres, 36 child care centres and 25 preventive health care centres.

The government has also made provision for specialist treatment for various ailments. One of the most prestigious, and the first of its kind in the Middle East, was the establishment of the Hamed Al Eissa Kidney and Organ Transplant Centre.

Organ transplant surgery began at the Sabah Hospital in 1979. Dr. George Aouna, a noted transplant surgeon, has been conducting the operations. Due to the giant strides made in medicine worldwide, the rate of success of kidney and liver transplant operations has risen to about 80 per cent.

So far, 504 kidney transplant operations have been done at the centre. About 240 patients, suffering kidney failure, are receiving dialysis treatment.

The government spends KD 8000 per year on each dialysis patient. Aboudan said. He added that the cost of a kidney transplant is KD 5,000.

Aboudan recently told Kuna that some patients who were unable to wait for donors went to east Asian countries to "purchase organs, causing serious medical problems."

Kuwait is also one of the first countries to enact a law making donation of cadaver and live organs, thus giving a legal backing to a humanitarian cause.

A medical student, who conducted a survey in the early 1980s, found that people in Kuwait were ready to donate their organs.

Therefore, the Kuwaiti Association for Organ Transplant was formed in 1984. The association registers the names of people wishing to donate their organs after death. The association holds awareness campaigns, distributes donor membership cards and talks about the issues related to organ transplantation.

The Hussain Makki Al Juma Cancer Centre, specialised for the treatment and care of cancer patients, is another service provided by the government. A subsidiary body, the Cancer Society, was formed to provide not only the patients but the family with moral support.

Some of the other specialised centers are psychiatry, chest diseases, allergies, hereditary diseases, acupuncture and herbal medicine.

Nuclear medicine sections at various hospitals treat about 15,000 patients per year. Plans are afoot to expand this to other hospitals.

Due to concerted efforts, medical services were vastly improved since independence in 1961. The doctor-patient ratio, which was 1:1,200 in that year has now reduced to 1:64. The state spends an average of about KD 100 per patient. The nurse-patient ratio, which was 1:713 in 1961 has reduced to 1:200.

The health care system has effectively reduced the infant mortality rate from 44.3 per 1,000 birth in 1974 to 14.4 in 1987. The mortality rate dropped from 8 percent per 1,000 in 1965 to 4 percent per 1,000 in 1984.



## Archaeology

By Fathima Ahmed  
Arab Times staff

TUCKED away in a corner of Kuwait is the tiny island of Failaka, once a bustling trade centre, and now a historical landmark of a bygone Greek and Dilmun era. The relics discovered in Failaka not only give vital clues to Kuwait's history but also throw light on lost civilisations.

In recent months, a French archaeological team uncovered the remnants of what was once a church in the 5th century. The team also found many other relics which are expected to close a gap in Kuwait's history from 100 AD to 900 AD. French archaeologists say the 35m by 20m church proves the existence of a flourishing Christian community between the 5th and 9th centuries.

All this may have remained buried under the sands. Thanks to a team of archaeologists, the Greek and Dilmun remains were uncovered in 1957. That year, some archaeologists had discovered Dilmun finds in



A cylindrical seal found in Failaka.

Bahrain. They had evidence that Dilmun borders extended beyond Bahrain — or Tylos as it was then known. Encouraged, they began to search for the edges of the lost civilisation.

In 1957, a team of Danish archaeologists visited Failaka and found pieces of pottery and Bronze Age relics. They also found two sites of well-defined "tells," which they believed may have belonged to the Dilmun era.

Excavations also unearthed more evidence of Kuwait's ancient history and the region's links with earlier civilisations such as Mesopotamia and the Indus valley.

Failaka and Bahrain had been "in contemporary association" and the link was traced back to

Kuwait's early history and the wider issues of man's glorious past that had been puzzling archaeologists for years. Failaka had proved to be full of historical treasures and the puzzle seemed finally solved about what happened to the Dilmun civilisation, which had been lost for 5,000 years.

Excavations also unearthed more evidence of Kuwait's ancient history and the region's links with earlier civilisations such as Mesopotamia and the Indus valley.

Failaka and Bahrain had been

"in contemporary association" and the link was traced back to

Dilmun in 2800 BC.

Today, ferries run between mainland Kuwait and Failaka Island where tourists can see the relics of the past. The ruins of Dilmun town lie, partly exposed, in a deep excavated pit and include stone houses, paved streets and a temple rebuilt three times in the 3rd millennium BC.

One tall stone wall still shows the finger marks of men who plastered it about 4,500 years ago.

The Dilmun civilisation belongs to the Bronze Age.

A shard thrown away is a

square, a moated Greek temple

20 centuries younger than the

Bronze Age's Dilmun town.

It is the only ancient Greek

settlement so far found in the Gulf.

This combination of the Greek

and Dilmun on the same sight

make Failaka unique.

A community in the 3rd century BC was also suggested by the discovery of a brick-built

workshop complete with kiln to

make terracotta figures. It sug-

gested Failaka's links with the

Greek empire and the Seleucid

period.

Digs close to the Greek temple

produced a hoard of silver coins.

One of them bore the likeness

of the Syrian King Antiochus, who

ruled the Seleucid Empire from

223 BC to 187 BC after Alexan-

der.

The imprint of Alexander was

also found on some coins, but

historians have established that

they were minted after Alexander's

death in 323 BC.

Alexander never came to the

island, then known as Ikaros,

which archaeologists say was dis-

covered by his envoy, Nikorios

soon after Alexander's cam-

paigns in 170 AD.

There are four separate "tells"

on Failaka — low mounds which

flank a sandy sea shore. Large

land masses, which once formed



Greek Temple remains.

Thirty years later, the Selucids of Mesopotamia strengthened their power and Ikaros became a bustling trade centre, used as a stopover enroute to the Indus valley (now in Pakistan) and other eastern routes. Steatite seals found at Failaka linked Ikaros with Tylos (Bahrain).

Trade

Failaka was not only a trade centre but also known for its agriculture. French archaeologists, excavating the site in 1984, established that the prized crop of the region was barley, grown in abundance on Failaka, due to a plentiful supply of fresh water.

Fresh archaeologists said

Failaka was the gateway con-

trolling the northern trade route;

it was also inhabited by people

who set up temples dedicated to

the Greek god, Artemis and a

goddess of fertility named Inazak Akarum.

Today, Failaka is a major

tourist attraction. In 1983, a

large tourist complex was

built on 5,000 square metres comprising 472 self-contained chalets.

A self-contained motel and a large restaurant was also



Columns of the Temple of Soteira

## Reliable supply

## KUWAIT NATIONAL DAY: AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1990

KUWAIT celebrates its 29th National Day today secure in the knowledge that the sports movement here has kept pace with the other developments in the country over the last three decades.

Kuwait has certainly come a long way from the time when there were no facilities and the only form of exercise was to jog over vast tracts of sand.

Twenty-nine years later Kuwait is a sportsman's paradise with stadiums and other facilities to vie with the best in the world. These are a part of a vast multifaceted organisation which has become the home of many national sports movements. Kuwait has certainly made rapid developments on the sports field over the last three decades.

Our reason is that the Kuwait government has classified sport as an essential element in the development of its young people. As a consequence it has spared no effort or funds to provide some of the most sophisticated facilities to be found anywhere.

The 29th year of Kuwait's independence can certainly be counted among one of the most successful for the country in building its international reputation.

It was in this year that Kuwait staged the Peace and Friendship Games — the first ever Games for all the Islamic countries in the world. The task was momentous as Kuwait had only two months to stage the event.

### Brainchild

The Games, which were the brainchild of His Highness the Amir, were brought to fruition by the untiring efforts of one man — Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, the chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee, Kuwait Football Association and the Olympic Council of Asia. Not only did Sheikh Fahd organise the event, he also succeeded in fighting off repeated attempts by some members of the international community to scuttle the Games.

The Games, however, were successful and proved to the world that Kuwait could organise events at every level of competition. But the movement in Kuwait did not gain success overnight, it was the result of nearly three decades of hard work by various sports personalities, and organisations.

Although some sporting bodies emerged before independence, it was only after 1961 that the sporting movements gained the momentum which has today put Kuwait well and truly on the world map.

The key body, the Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) was formed on Sept. 29, 1957 with the football, basketball, volleyball, athletics and motorcycling associations born on the same day.

The first general assembly of the KOC was held on Jan. 1, 1958 and the first board of directors was elected with Jassim Al Katami as the president.

The sports movement was suspended from 1958-61 and the KOC was re-formed on April 17, 1962. Issa Al Hamad was elected as the new president.

Kuwait's first direct contact with the Olympic Games came in Tokyo in 1964 when the KOC sent a delegation as observers. During the Games KOC became a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

A year later, a new board of directors emerged with Issa Al Hamad still at its head. Meanwhile, more and more sports bodies became affiliated to the KOC.

### Invited

KOC's big moment came in 1968 when it was invited by the IOC to take part in the 19th Olympic Games in Mexico. Kuwait's team comprised two athletes who both took part in the marathon. They were Muraheeb Ayed Mansour and Saad Ubaid Daifullah, both soldiers with the Kuwait Army.

In 1972 in Munich, Kuwait had a bigger representation, taking part in athletics and swimming though it failed to gain any medals.

A year before Munich, Kuwait gained admission to the Asian Games Federation and also hosted a meeting of the Arab Olympic Committee.

In 1974, a new board of directors was elected, with Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed as president. He agreed to host the first and has tried hard to spread Kuwait's name and influence in sports world-wide.

The soccer movement was launched with the Kuwaiti Sports Federation in 1952. It was renamed the Kuwait Football Association in 1957 and became a member of Fifa in 1962. It joined the Asian Football Federation in 1964 and the Arab Federation in 1974.

After independence, a new board of directors was elected with Issa Al Hamad as the KFA president in September 1961. The new board formed the first national team which played its first match against the Swedish club Malmö on December 15 and 17, 1961.

In the same season the Kuwait Soccer League and the Kuwait Amiri Cup Championships were organised.

In that first season, Al Arabi won both the trophies. Since then, Al Arabi, Al Qadsia, Al Kuwait, Al Karamah and Al Salimiyah have led the League Cup winners, with Al Arabi, Al Karamah, Al Qadsia, Al Kuwait and Al Yarmouk sharing the Amiri Cup triumphs.

Since the formation of the KFA, foreign sides have been visiting Kuwait to play against club teams as well as the national side.

### Stadium

In the early stages KFA had six club members. The number increased to 11 in the 1964-65 season and from 1975 onwards it has grown to 14.

In 1970 the Gulf Cup was organized to develop the game throughout the region. Kuwait won the Cup four times in a row in 1970, '72, '74 and '76. It is held every second year.

Perhaps more than anything else these Gulf Cup victories for Kuwait drew the government's attention to the value of sports in general and football in particular.

As a result a big stadium for 25,000 people was built in 1974 to host the Gulf Cup tournament. It



HH the Amir has taken a personal interest in promoting sport.



Peace and Friendship Games: the highlight of sporting development

# Sporting glory over the decades, and growth

**Kuwait has classified sports as an essential element in the development of its young people and the country has come a long way in the last 29 years. The sporting movements which gained momentum after independence have put Kuwait truly on the world map, Arab Times Sports editor Yawar Maqsood reports.**

being promoted to the grade 'A' category during the IAAF congress in Rome in 1981.

The KAAF joined the Asian Amateur Athletic Federation in 1973 and took part in getting up the Arab Amateur Athletic Association.

Such technical facilities as well as financial support enabled Kuwaiti clubs to entice world class coaches to the country.

Among those to have left their mark on Kuwait's football are the Yugoslav Brocic, the Brazilians Zagallo and Carlos Alberto and his assistant Shirlo. The first foreigner to train the Kuwait team was Edmond Majoski of Austria in 1958.

The KFA has had its ups and downs especially administratively. It was suspended by KOC in 1985, but it also suffered the same fate in 1969 for refusing to elect a new board of directors. A new board was finally formed with Ahmad Muhamna as president. In April 1970 seven members, including Muhamna resigned.

A month later a new board emerged under Abdulla Al Dakhil Al Rashid and the KOC lifted its suspension.

It was on May 5, 1974 that a new board was elected under Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed. And it was with his appointment that Kuwait attained new heights. The team which had earlier dominated the Gulf scene was lacking quality players, but Sheikh Fahd set about putting things right and creating a side with dedication and discipline as well as skill. He infused new blood into the side and dropped veterans who had outlived their usefulness. He had decided a new era was necessary to take Kuwait from purely Gulf competitions up to genuinely international level.

Kuwait became the first Arab state to qualify for the Olympics in 1980.

And in 1982 Kuwait achieved the peak of its ambitions by reaching the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain.

Yet perhaps its greatest achievement was its victory in the Asian Soccer Championships in Kuwait in 1980. By winning the Asian crown it became the first Arab country ever to do so.

Sadly, a decline in standards has followed. Kuwait has failed to qualify for the 1990 World Cup and also lost its Asian crown in 1984.

KFA is at the moment organising the on-going Gulf Cup.

While soccer has largely dominated the local scene, athletics was the sport in which Kuwait first participated in the Olympics.

The Kuwait Amateur Athletic Federation was formed before 1961, but it joined the international scene after independence when it was accepted as a member of the International Amateur Athletics Federation. It had to wait 20 years before

Mutlaq sprung a surprise in the 800 metre when he took the gold in front of his team-mate Khalid Khalifa, who took the silver medal.

Najim took his second medal in the 1,500 metres when he was placed third, and Najim Abdul Razzaq completed the tally with a bronze in judo, athletics, taekwondo, boxing and soccer.

Kuwait's soccer squad showed a lot of promise under the new coach, Saleh Zakaria in both the Gulf Championship and the 1986 Asian Games. Zakaria, who was appointed to train the national side after the sacking of flamboyant Englishman Malcolm Allison, took the team to the great heights with excellent results in both the tournaments in which they participated.

The soccer squad captured the Gulf crown, easily beating their rivals in the one-week tournament.

The squad was unlucky to come home with only a bronze from the Asian Games, where they were edged out on a penalty shoot-out in the semifinals by Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait's participation in both these tournaments had been doubtful at the start of the year as the International Football Federation (Fifa) had suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) in January.

The Kuwait federation had been embroiled in a controversy, but the Fifa requirements were met in time and the suspension lifted only a week before the Gulf event held in Bahrain.

The basketball team also brought glory to the country. In the Gulf Championship held in Kuwait, the home squad clinched the title for the third time to keep permanent possession of the trophy.

The soccer squad showed a lot of promise under the new coach, Saleh Zakaria in both the Gulf Championship and the 1986 Asian Games. Zakaria, who was appointed to train the national side after the sacking of flamboyant Englishman Malcolm Allison, took the team to the great heights with excellent results in both the tournaments in which they participated.

The soccer squad captured the Gulf crown, easily beating their rivals in the one-week tournament.

The squad was unlucky to come home with only a bronze from the Asian Games, where they were edged out on a penalty shoot-out in the semifinals by Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait's participation in both these tournaments had been doubtful at the start of the year as the International Football Federation (Fifa) had suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) in January.

The Kuwait federation had been embroiled in a controversy, but the Fifa requirements were met in time and the suspension lifted only a week before the Gulf event held in Bahrain.

The basketball team also brought glory to the country. In the Gulf Championship held in Kuwait, the home squad clinched the title for the third time to keep permanent possession of the trophy.

The soccer squad showed a lot of promise under the new coach, Saleh Zakaria in both the Gulf Championship and the 1986 Asian Games. Zakaria, who was appointed to train the national side after the sacking of flamboyant Englishman Malcolm Allison, took the team to the great heights with excellent results in both the tournaments in which they participated.

The soccer squad captured the Gulf crown, easily beating their rivals in the one-week tournament.

The squad was unlucky to come home with only a bronze from the Asian Games, where they were edged out on a penalty shoot-out in the semifinals by Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait's participation in both these tournaments had been doubtful at the start of the year as the International Football Federation (Fifa) had suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) in January.

The Kuwait federation had been embroiled in a controversy, but the Fifa requirements were met in time and the suspension lifted only a week before the Gulf event held in Bahrain.

The basketball team also brought glory to the country. In the Gulf Championship held in Kuwait, the home squad clinched the title for the third time to keep permanent possession of the trophy.

The soccer squad showed a lot of promise under the new coach, Saleh Zakaria in both the Gulf Championship and the 1986 Asian Games. Zakaria, who was appointed to train the national side after the sacking of flamboyant Englishman Malcolm Allison, took the team to the great heights with excellent results in both the tournaments in which they participated.

The soccer squad captured the Gulf crown, easily beating their rivals in the one-week tournament.

The squad was unlucky to come home with only a bronze from the Asian Games, where they were edged out on a penalty shoot-out in the semifinals by Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait's participation in both these tournaments had been doubtful at the start of the year as the International Football Federation (Fifa) had suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) in January.

The Kuwait federation had been embroiled in a controversy, but the Fifa requirements were met in time and the suspension lifted only a week before the Gulf event held in Bahrain.

The basketball team also brought glory to the country. In the Gulf Championship held in Kuwait, the home squad clinched the title for the third time to keep permanent possession of the trophy.

The soccer squad showed a lot of promise under the new coach, Saleh Zakaria in both the Gulf Championship and the 1986 Asian Games. Zakaria, who was appointed to train the national side after the sacking of flamboyant Englishman Malcolm Allison, took the team to the great heights with excellent results in both the tournaments in which they participated.

The soccer squad captured the Gulf crown, easily beating their rivals in the one-week tournament.

The squad was unlucky to come home with only a bronze from the Asian Games, where they were edged out on a penalty shoot-out in the semifinals by Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait's participation in both these tournaments had been doubtful at the start of the year as the International Football Federation (Fifa) had suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) in January.

The Kuwait federation had been embroiled in a controversy, but the Fifa requirements were met in time and the suspension lifted only a week before the Gulf event held in Bahrain.

The basketball team also brought glory to the country. In the Gulf Championship held in Kuwait, the home squad clinched the title for the third time to keep permanent possession of the trophy.

The soccer squad showed a lot of promise under the new coach, Saleh Zakaria in both the Gulf Championship and the 1986 Asian Games. Zakaria, who was appointed to train the national side after the sacking of flamboyant Englishman Malcolm Allison, took the team to the great heights with excellent results in both the tournaments in which they participated.

The soccer squad captured the Gulf crown, easily beating their rivals in the one-week tournament.

The squad was unlucky to come home with only a bronze from the Asian Games, where they were edged out on a penalty shoot-out in the semifinals by Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait's participation in both these tournaments had been doubtful at the start of the year as the International Football Federation (Fifa) had suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) in January.

The Kuwait federation had been embroiled in a controversy, but the Fifa requirements were met in time and the suspension lifted only a week before the Gulf event held in Bahrain.

The basketball team also brought glory to the country. In the Gulf Championship held in Kuwait, the home squad clinched the title for the third time to keep permanent possession of the trophy.

The soccer squad showed a lot of promise under the new coach, Saleh Zakaria in both the Gulf Championship and the 1986 Asian Games. Zakaria, who was appointed to train the national side after the sacking of flamboyant Englishman Malcolm Allison, took the team to the great heights with excellent results in both the tournaments in which they participated.

The soccer squad captured the Gulf crown, easily beating their rivals in the one-week tournament.

The squad was unlucky to come home with only a bronze from the Asian Games, where they were edged out on a penalty shoot-out in the semifinals by Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait's participation in both these tournaments had been doubtful at the start of the year as the International Football Federation (Fifa) had suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) in January.

The Kuwait federation had been embroiled in a controversy, but the Fifa requirements were met in time and the suspension lifted only a week before the Gulf event held in Bahrain.

The basketball team also brought glory to the country. In the Gulf Championship held in Kuwait, the home squad clinched the title for the third time to keep permanent possession of the trophy.

The soccer squad showed a lot of promise under the new coach, Saleh Zakaria in both the Gulf Championship and the 1986 Asian Games. Zakaria, who was appointed to train the national side after the sacking of flamboyant Englishman Malcolm Allison, took the team to the great heights with excellent results in both the tournaments in which they participated.

The soccer squad captured the Gulf crown, easily beating their rivals in the one-week tournament.

The squad was unlucky to come home with only a bronze from the Asian Games, where they were edged out on a penalty shoot-out in the semifinals by Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait's participation in both these tournaments had been doubtful at the start of the year as the International Football Federation (Fifa) had suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) in January.

The Kuwait federation had been embroiled in a controversy, but the Fifa requirements were met in time and the suspension lifted only a week before the Gulf event held in Bahrain.

The basketball team also brought glory to the country. In the Gulf Championship held in Kuwait, the home squad clinched the title for the third time to keep permanent possession of the trophy.

The soccer squad showed a lot of promise under the new coach, Saleh Zakaria in both the Gulf Championship and the 1986 Asian Games. Zakaria, who was appointed to train the national side after the sacking of flamboyant Englishman Malcolm Allison, took the team to the great heights with excellent results in both the tournaments in which they participated.

The soccer squad captured the Gulf crown, easily beating their rivals in the one-week tournament.

The squad was unlucky to come home with only a bronze from the Asian Games, where they were edged out on a penalty shoot-out in the semifinals by Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait's participation in both these tournaments had been doubtful at the start of the year as the International Football Federation (Fifa) had suspended the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) in January.

The Kuwait federation had been embroiled in a controversy, but the Fifa requirements were met in time and the suspension lifted only a week before the Gulf event held in Bahrain.

The basketball team also brought glory to the country. In the Gulf Championship held in Kuwait, the home squad clinched the title for the third time to keep permanent possession of the trophy.

The soccer squad showed a lot of promise under the new coach, Saleh Zakaria in both the Gulf Championship and the 1986 Asian Games. Zakaria, who was

Alshaili

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Market turns mixed

## Kuwaiti indices dip

THE Alshaili index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday, Feb 21, 1990 an average of 38.76 points with a decrease of 0.11 point — 0.28 per cent — from last week's average of Wednesday, Feb 14, 1990. The Alshaili index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 67.49 points with an increase of 0.17 points — 0.25 per cent — for the same period, according to Al Shaili weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 9.90 million shares at a daily average of 1.98 million shares with a decrease of 31 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 2.86 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 6.40 million shares at a daily average of 1.28 million shares with an increase of 103 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.632 million shares. The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD3.66 million at a daily average of KD0.73 million, a decrease of 16 per cent from last week's daily average of KD 0.87 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.212 million at a daily average of KD0.042 million, an increase of 45 per cent from last week's daily average of KD 0.029 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 53 per cent of total trading against 40 per cent last week. The Gulf Bank had the lead at 39 per cent, followed by The National Bank of Kuwait at 30 per cent and Kuwait Finance House at 14 per cent. The investment sector came second at 27 per cent in which Coast Investment and Development Company had the lead at 75 per cent followed by Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 20 per cent and International Financial Advisers Company at 3 per cent. The services sector came third at 11 per cent in which Kuwait Commercial Market Complex Company had the lead at 51 per cent followed by Mobile Telephone Systems Company at 33 per cent and the Public Warehousing Company at 16 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Arabian General Investment Company (Sbaa) had the lead at 81 per cent, followed by Bahrain International Bank at 9 per cent and Bahrain Middle East Bank at 5 per cent.

The market gave signs of mixed performance which was inclined to the weak side. Kuwaiti indices dropped as related to last week's while non-Kuwaiti indices gave signs of increase. This fall in trading activity & prices does not support the claim that the past week was the start of a new active cycle. However, it is clear now that last week's performance was only a short period of activity which usually occurs after several consecutive weeks of low activity.

Companies listed in the Kuwaiti share's market continue to declare dividend distributions. Three Kuwaiti companies have declared dividends this week which brings up the percentage of companies that declared dividends in this market to 52.3 per cent of total listed companies.

Kuwait Investment Projects Company declared cash dividend while both The Commercial Bank and Bahrain Bank have declared cash and stock dividend. The total number of companies that declared cash dividend only reached 56.5 per cent of total companies that declared dividend distributions for 1989 while total companies that declared both stock and cash reached 43.5 per cent. We believe that this percentage is very high considering the present situation in the Stock Exchange Market.

The financial structures of most Kuwaiti companies cannot absorb an increase in future financial burden which will be created as a result of the new stocks that are being distributed as dividends, and the Stock Exchange Market cannot absorb this increase in shares supply.

Despite all this, many companies continue to declare stock dividend distributions and some of these companies are urged to do so by the government. Official laws do not favour this kind of dividend distributions however, it has been followed in two consecutive years which lead us to believe that it is a rule rather than being considered a violation of public policies. We urge officials to reconsider this policy of stock dividend distributions

which is only achieving short-term solutions while making long term problems more complicated.

### Kuwaiti shareholding companies Index

	Wed.	Wed.	Change
	21/02/90	14/02/90	points
<b>Banking Sector</b>			
The National Bk	121.52	121.52	—
The Gulf Bk	29.70	29.70	—
The Comm. Bk	23.71	23.71	—
Al Ahli Bk	29.27	30.28	-1.01
Bk of K & ME	30.97	31.44	-0.47
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	28.71	28.71	—
Burgan Bk	26.01	25.81	0.21
Kt. Finance House	77.45	76.62	0.82
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>47.43</b>	<b>47.54</b>	<b>-0.11</b>
<b>Inv. Sector</b>			
Kuwait Inv. Co.	9.18	9.18	—
Kt. Int. Inv. Co.	8.59	8.59	—
IFA	24.45	23.74	-1.29
Comm. Facilities	148.50	143.00	5.50
National Inv.	57.84	57.84	—
Kt. Inv. Proj.	92.13	92.13	—
Coast Inv. & Dev.	91.76	92.94	-1.18
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>32.22</b>	<b>32.04</b>	<b>0.18</b>
<b>Ind. Sector</b>			
Kt. Ins. Co.	35.88	35.88	—
Gulf Ins. Co.	23.08	23.08	—
Al Ahliya Ins.	50.84	50.84	—
Warba Ins. Co.	50.69	50.69	—
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>35.74</b>	<b>35.74</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Real Est.</b>			
Kt. Real Est.	14.02	14.02	—
Utd. Real Est.	5.29	5.41	-0.12
Nat. Real Est.	39.42	39.42	—
Pearl of Kt.	63.49	63.49	—
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>15.81</b>	<b>15.88</b>	<b>-0.07</b>
<b>Ind. Sector</b>			
Kt. Cmtr. Co.	11.45	11.45	—
Ref. Ind.	84.55	84.55	—
Gulf Cables	104.08	116.32	-12.44
Kt. Pharm.	60.44	60.44	—
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>28.83</b>	<b>30.24</b>	<b>-1.41</b>
<b>Services Sector</b>			
Kt. Cmtr. Co.	151.20	151.20	—
Kt. Cinema Co.	7.61	7.61	—
Pub. W'hous Co.	58.59	58.59	—
Kt. Comm. M. Co.	36.83	35.91	0.92
M. Tele. Syst.	347.62	338.10	9.52
<b>Sector Index</b>	<b>58.49</b>	<b>57.42</b>	<b>1.06</b>
<b>Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies Index</b>			
Wed.	Wed.	Change	
21/02/90	14/02/90	points	
First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	—
Bah. Int'l. Bk.	91.03	91.03	—
Bah. M. Bk.	93.97	93.02	0.95
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua)	42.94	43.94	—
Umm Al Q. Cmtr.	17.62	17.62	—
G. Med. Proj.	13.13	13.13	—
<b>Total Index</b>	<b>67.49</b>	<b>67.32</b>	<b>0.17</b>
<b>Base period 31/12/1983.</b>			
<b>All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.</b>			

Despite Fed intervention

## Dollar moves up strongly on yen

NEW YORK, Feb 24, (UPI): The dollar moved up significantly on the Japanese yen in New York trading yesterday as Tokyo stock market volatility and a Bank of Japan stay on interest rate hikes sent capital towards other currencies.

Traders said most activity was in cross trading, in which foreign currencies are exchange directly for each other without involving the dollar. There were heavy sales of yen for German marks and Swiss francs.

"People are selling the yen against everything," said Todd Gerber, a currency vice president for Societe Generale in New York.

Near the end of the New York trading session the dollar was changing hands at 1.6780 German marks, up from 1.6738 Thursday. The US currency was quoted at 147 Japanese yen, ahead from 146.60.

But the dollar also benefited, either from direct yen-dollar transactions or as a side effect of yen selling for other currencies. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York intervened twice to defend the yen, traders said.

"People are determined to buy the dollar and sell the yen," said chief dealer Sally Young of the Bank Fur Gemeinwirtschaft. One factor was the decline of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. "It's been taking hit every day."

There was also the international perception that Japanese market fragility has ruled out a Bank of Japan discount rate hike any time soon, sending global capital in search of higher yields in other currencies.

The dollar also firmed against the Deutsche mark

on a Washington Post report saying Bonn, now mapping out monetary union with East Germany, envisioned a one-to-one ostmark-Deutsche mark conversion. Economists say the move, though potentially expedient, is economically ill-advised.

The Post report had its greatest impact on Asian and European markets, but it continued to support the dollar in US trading.

Roger Shields, chief international economist for Chemical Banking Corp., said German monetary conversion on a one-to-one basis would preserve the savings of East Germans but ironically prove pernicious for the economy. The step could mean even more massive West German infusions, he said.

"All these kinds of things support the dollar," he said. "The concern is that the political imperative is overruling the economic issues."

In New York the British pound ticked down to \$1.7098 from \$1.7100.

Other dollar rates: 1.4720 Swiss francs, off from 1.4772, 5.6810 French francs, up from 5.6710, and 1.2410 Italian lire, up from 1.238.

In Europe the dollar closed mostly higher, ending the session in Frankfurt at 1.6755 German marks against 1.6730 Thursday. But the dollar declined in Zurich to 1.4745 Swiss francs against 1.4760.

The dollar also rose in Paris, Brussels and Milan, to 5.6795 French francs against 5.6660, 34.92 Belgian francs compared with 34.87 and 1,240.10 Italian lire against 1,237.90 at the previous day's close.

In London the pound moved up to \$1.7065 from \$1.7155.

## New banknote to be issued

WARSAW, Poland, Feb 24, (AP): The Polish National Bank will issue a 100,000 zlote note on Monday, another step to accommodate the soaring inflation that has accompanied economic reform, the official news agency PAP reported.

The banknote, worth \$10 1/2, is the second largest in circulation, after the recently introduced 200,000 zlote note.

The note was being produced in December but had to be redesigned after Poland's name was changed from the Polish People's Republic to the Republic of Poland, PAP said today.

In addition, the crown was restored on the national emblem as the purging of postwar communist symbols continued under the new Solidarity-led government.

Poland has been struggling with triple digit inflation since last year, following the lifting of controls that had kept prices unrealistically low through huge government budget subsidies to unprofitable state-run enterprises.

squeeze.

Industrial production increased by 0.2 per cent in December 1989. Durable goods orders rose 2.5 per cent in December 1989 after a revised 4.9 per cent increase in November of the same year. This increase was generated in the transportation industry, where higher aircraft and shipbuilding orders offset a decline in motor vehicles and parts order. For all of 1989 durable goods rose 5.9 per cent compared with 10.9 per cent rise in 1988.

Producer prices index (PPI) increased by 0.6 per cent in December 1989 due to a 1.9 per cent and 1.5 per cent increase in energy and gasoline prices respectively. CPI rose 0.4 per cent in December with an annual rate of 4.6 per cent for all 1989.

White merchandise trade deficit in December shrank to \$7.17 billion from a deficit of \$10.29 billion in November 1989, trade deficit in the 4th quarter of 1989 widened to \$61.8 billion from \$57.1 billion in the 3rd quarter. For all 1989, the deficit slide

to \$108.6 billion from \$118.5 billion in 1988. This was the lowest short-fall since 1984, when it reached \$106.7 billion.

### Japan

Economic indicators released for

Japan suggest that economic activity has picked up somewhat at the end of 1989 and the economy is still in good shape and settling on an expansionary path. An unusual aspect of this expansion has been the growth of the female labour force, chiefly in part-time jobs. This has supported supply-side economic expansion by keeping the tight market for labour from pushing up wages. Though industrial production increased by 0.1 per cent in December, and by 3.0 per cent for all of 1989. PPI also rose by 0.4 per cent in December compared with a 0.4 per cent fall in November, and by 0.4 per cent for all of 1989 against 3.0 per cent lower than in December 1988, while imports totalled \$192.50 billion against \$164.75 billion in 1988.

### W. Germany

The W. German economy achieved a high rate of growth in 1989. Consumer price (CPI) jumped 2.3 per cent in 1989 after rising a meager 0.7

per cent in 1988. This rise was the biggest since 1984. Producer prices (PPI) rose 0.1 per cent in December. Annual producer price inflation was 3.9 per cent compared with 3.8 per cent in 1988.

As a result of the drop in automobile exports to the US and the 1-Curve effect of the cheaper yen, together with rising crude oil prices, Japan's trade surplus in 1989 fell in its lowest level in four years. The surplus dropped to \$64.4 billion from \$77.6 billion in 1988. Japan's current account narrowed by 28.4 per cent to reach \$6.9 billion in 1989 from \$79.63 billion in 1988. Invisible trade deficit ballooned to \$15.9 billion in 1989 from \$11.26 billion in 1988.

Exports totalled \$269.63 billion in 1989 against \$259.77 billion in 1988, while imports totalled \$192.50 billion against \$164.75 billion in 1988.

### W. Germany

The W. German economy achieved a high rate of growth in 1989. Consumer price (CPI) jumped 2.3 per cent in 1989 after rising a meager 0.7 per cent in 1988. This rise was the biggest since 1984. Producer prices (PPI) also rose by 0.4 per cent in December, giving a year-on-year rise of 7.7 per cent. This came as a pleasant surprise for UK financial markets, which were expecting the annual rate to edge up to 7.9 per cent, or even 8 per cent. Concern that inflation will be fuelled by rising price demands has escalated. Wholesale price index increased by 0.4 per cent in December, giving a year-on-year rise of 5.0 per cent compared with 4.9 per cent in 1988.

Trade and current account figures cheered in late 1989. The December

## Industry playing vital role

KUWAIT, Feb 24. (Opecna): Kuwait's national industries are playing a vital role in the country's development despite problems associated with lower oil prices and the after-effects of the Gulf war, according to a study released here

## Envoy to present award to Al Fraih

ON Tuesday February 27, the Ambassador of the Netherlands, Joseph Veling, will present the Holland Agricultural Export Award to Mohammed Al Fraih of Burgan Agri-Food Industries.

The Agricultural Export Award is awarded by the Netherlands minister of agriculture to businessmen who, through their outstanding efforts, have made a long-term, significant contribution to the export and marketing of Dutch agricultural and horticultural products. The award, first instituted in 1986, has until now been presented twice within the Gulf area, both times to businessmen in Saudi Arabia.

The long-term, outstanding relations Mohammed Al Fraih has with Holland and Dutch companies fully justify his choice as recipient of the award. For over fifteen years he has done business with Dutch firms, importing and marketing a wide variety of products ranging from poultry-farms and greenhouses to hatching eggs, one-day chicks and flower seeds.

He promoted the use of Dutch technology and expertise to assist in the development of agriculture in Kuwait. The first and to this day largest poultry farm, as well as the big glasshouse complexes were set-up by Dutch companies, who also contributed new irrigation methods and their agricultural technology in general to the development of Kuwait.

Mohammed Al Fraih has thereby made himself known as a man with expert knowledge of the agricultural sector, who is, moreover, extremely pleasant to do business with.

By establishing a durable business-relationship with the Netherlands, Al Fraih has contributed towards the cementing of the bilateral relations between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

## TAI to take part in Dubai fair

R.P. SINGH, first secretary (commerce) of the Indian Embassy, Kuwait has announced the Trade Fair Authority of India, a government of India undertaking with more than 130 prominent public sector undertakings, leading industrial houses, export promotion Councils and their constituent firms, will participate in the Dubai International Spring Fair from February 27 to March 10, 1990. The products proposed to be displayed are:

Telecommunication systems, technologies on fragrances, flavours and medicines from plants, construction equipment, electrical appliances, refrigerators, electronics, mopeds, bicycles, auto parts, hand and cutting tools, plastic and PVC products including spectacle frames and lenses, tyre and tube repairing materials, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, industrial garments, diesel engines, home appliances and consumer durables, surgical apparatus, builders hardware, sanitary, pottery and glasswares, leather products, garments and fabrics, woollen knitwear and knitted hosiery, processed foods, etc.

A large number of representatives will visit and make trade enquiries on the-spot business negotiations. For more details, please contact: Indian Embassy, Kuwait (telephone: 2536000), Indian Embassy, Abu Dhabi (telephone: 337700) and Consul General of India, Dubai (Telephone 220201).

IN 1989 the Kuwaiti economy was able to recover from the slow down it had experienced in 1988. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to have increased by 4 to 5 per cent in 1989, after a decline of 4.9 per cent the year before.

Higher oil output and firm crude oil prices contributed to the recovery in oil sector output, which is estimated to have registered a sharp growth in 1989.

Non-oil output accounting for nearly 80 per cent of GDP in recent years, is estimated to have grown only marginally in 1989.

In terms of public expenditure, the total amount spent by the government remained relatively stable at KD3.4 billion recorded in 1988.

In addition, estimates of Kuwait's foreign trade performance show the Current Account of the Balance of Payments for 1989 to be in the region of a KD2 billion surplus. This compares favourably with the surplus of KD1.3 billion recorded in 1988.

### Labour force

As for 1990, the outlook appears to be more promising, based on the mood of cautious optimism that followed the Joint Economic Commission's recent proposals to re-activate the economy.

Although oil revenue is likely to show some improvement, particularly as a large number of new projects are to be implemented in the construction sector. In the longer-term, the authorities are also concerned to bring about structural changes of a far reaching nature to the economy. As a major aim of the new Five-Year Development Plan, will be to adjust population and labour market imbalances. This relates especially to the private sector where greater efforts will be made to increase the participation and efficiency of Kuwaitis in the labour force.

Increased economic diversification is also a priority, the hope being that Kuwait will offer improved services in the fields of finance, trade, transportation and storage during the coming decade.

### GDP growth

After recording an impressive growth in 1987, the Gross Domestic Product registered a decline in 1988. At current prices, GDP for 1988 totalled KD5.571 million against KD5.856 million in 1987, indicating a negative growth of 4.9 per cent. In 1987, GDP grew by 16.5 per cent after a decline of 8.6 per cent in 1985 and 13.8 per cent in

1986. In 1988, oil sector GDP totalled KD2,002 million against KD2,232 million in the previous year, representing a decline of 10.3 per cent. In 1987 oil sector GDP grew 32.9 per cent from the KD1,679.1 million level attained the year before. Given both the higher output and prices registered in 1989, it is reasonable to expect a double digit growth for oil sector GDP in 1990.

At the same time, non-oil GDP declined from KD3,624 million in 1987 to KD3,570 million in 1988, reflecting a negative growth of 1.5 per cent.

The sectors that registered some growth in 1988 were construction (4 per cent increase), real estate (4.5 per cent increase) transport, storage and communications (2.2 per cent increase) and restaurants and hotels (5.4 per cent). All other sectors recorded declines.

### Oil output quota for '90

Local banks financing of Kuwait's imports increased by 16.5 per cent between January and October 1989 compared to an increase of 11.2 per cent in the same period in 1988. These factors tend to suggest that non-oil GDP will register modest growth in 1990.

The latest Opec ministerial meeting has set for Kuwait's crude oil production quota of 1.5 mbd for the first half of 1990. This new quota represents a 30.5 per cent increase on the quota allotted for Kuwait for the second half of 1989, but is lower than the estimated average output of 1.6 mbd in 1989. Indications are that Kuwait will restrict its crude oil production during 1990 to the new production ceiling set by Opec.

The accumulation of inventories outside the OECD and stronger consumption world-wide helped oil prices remain relatively stable in recent years. But given the expected slow down of the industrial countries and the increases in non-oil Opec production, oil prices may well soften in 1990. Still, if Opec members adhere to their production ceiling of 2.2 mbd during 1990, oil prices could be kept at a steady \$16-18 per barrel. In the event Kuwait's oil revenue will be lower in 1990 than in 1989. Crude and refined exports will be marginally lower.

Although the thrust of fiscal policy will remain unchanged from the previous year, a modest shift towards expansion can be expected. Public debt instruments will provide the government with greater flexibility whilst pursuing fiscal policy.

The hope is that these measures will be implemented in the course of 1990, as proposed.

### Construction sector

The non-oil sector is expected to improve in 1990. The outlook for the construction sector is particularly optimistic with a number of infra-structural projects already having been begun and several more expected to be implemented in the near term.

The expected increase in construction activity will in turn have welcome spill-over effects on the trading and real estate sectors.

The implementation of a wide range of recommendations made by the Joint Economic Commission aimed at re-vitalising the domestic economy will have a much desired impact on the economy.

They include the introduction of a free trade zone, providing protection to local industries, increasing the private sector's role in the implementation of government housing projects, and speeding up both the establishment of mutual funds and the merger of specific financial institutions.

Over the medium-term, the recently announced Five-Year Development Plan — with its emphasis on developing local human resources through improved training and skill development and activation of the role of private sector in development efforts — should set the pace for further development of the Kuwaiti economy.

### Development plan

Overall, 1990 looks set to be the start of a new phase of development for the Kuwaiti economy as a whole. The implementation of a wide range of re-vitalising measures, as recommended by the Joint Economic Commission, will provide a much needed boost to economic growth. In particular, sectors not sufficiently affected by public expenditure policy so far should expect to enjoy renewed growth in the years ahead.

## Wall Street watch

Relationship between Japanese, US markets murky

# Market shrugs off interest rates worry

NEW YORK, Feb 24, (AP): Events this week on Wall Street once again demonstrated the link between the Japanese and US stock markets — or did they?

Twice this past week the key index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange plunged. Each time, the drop echoed in New York. But the severity of the decline on Wall Street didn't come close to the fall in Tokyo.

On Wednesday, when the Nikkei index fell 3.15 per cent for its third-worst decline ever, stocks in New York mimicked the slide at the opening bell and the Dow Jones industrial average plummeted 30 points.

But the market soon recovered, and by the close, the Dow was down a modest 13.29.

On Friday, the Nikkei fell 2.61 per cent for its fifth-worst drop in history. Again, the New York market opened lower — but the Dow was down only about 11 points. The market seesawed

before the Dow finished down 10.58.

The behaviour of the two markets cast doubt on what widely had been assumed to be the inextricable link between the US and Japanese exchanges.

That relationship was demonstrated powerfully last Oct 13, when the Dow plunged 190 points but the Tokyo stock market's strength in the following sessions helped restore investor confidence on Wall Street.

At the time, many had feared the Tokyo market would plunge and drag down New York even further, particularly if Japanese investors were forced to sell their US stocks to raise cash for obligations at home. Many American securities holders worried about that prospect again this past week.

Walter Murphy, a senior market specialist with Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc., said the New York and Tokyo markets react

to domestic issues as much as to events abroad.

"You're looking at two markets that are acting under their own reasons for being," he said.

For example, he said, when the yen is down in relation to the dollar, it's bad news for the Tokyo market but good news in New York because a weaker yen helps improve US trade competitiveness.

However, he did not dispute that there was a link among the world markets.

"If you look at markets over time, there is and has been a good global relationship. Bull markets in one part of the world are going to be bull markets in the other part of the world," he said.

But he added, "to say there is a day-to-day correlation is not only inaccurate but probably dangerous."

Ralph E. Blair, a partner in the trading department of Montgomery Securities Inc. in San Francisco, said: "There certainly is a concern about what goes on over there. But considering all the bad (economic) news, the (US) market is acting pretty well."

Blair said one factor that made it easier for the US markets to take the Japanese plunge in stride this week was that the decline was fairly orderly as far as market-drops go.

In addition, analysts have been saying for months that the Tokyo market — the world's largest and richest — was overpriced and ripe for a "correction." They said its share prices were way out of line with corporate earnings.

Some experts say the Tokyo market operates in a world of its own. European stocks historically have moved in tandem with New York and with Tokyo.

That also may account for a lessening of the impact of a drop in Japan.

## Co-operatives face hard times

### Bank lending on the rise

MOSCOW, Feb 24, (Reuters): The Soviet co-operative movement, devised by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, is breathing new life into the country's everyday economy, is gasping for air.

Set up in 1987 to provide elating consumers with anything from pasta to healthcare, the co-operatives say they are being stifled by heavy taxes, rising interest rates and bureaucracy.

"I can't understand how we manage to stay in business," said Boris Uryanova, chairman of Lasagna, a popular Italian co-operative restaurant in Moscow.

Uryanova said he has had to raise prices at his restaurant to pay special taxes imposed by Moscow authorities on co-operatives.

Meals in co-operative restaurants are already well beyond the pockets of ordinary Soviet consumers. At Lasagna, a typical meal costs about 25 roubles (\$1.50, one tenth of an average monthly salary).

"Gorbachev speaks a lot about co-operatives but he does nothing to help us," Uryanova said.

The Soviet leader's decision to allow workers to form their own co-operatives has been seen as his boldest attempt to restructure his country's ailing economy.

So far the move has paid off. In 1989, about 77,000 co-operatives across the Soviet Union produced 40 billion roubles (\$6.7 billion) worth of much-needed consumer goods and services, compared with just 350 million roubles

(\$585 million) worth in 1987.

But burdened with sharp rises in bank lending and tax rates, and forced to pay higher prices for their raw materials than state firms, many of the new enterprises fear for their future.

The National Union of Co-operatives predicts total output of its members will plunge 25 per cent this year, the government daily Izvestia reported on Sunday.

A group representing Moscow co-operatives expects half the capital's enterprises to face serious threat of closure, according to Literaturnaya Gazeta, an influential weekly newspaper.

If these forecasts prove true, it would mean a dramatic setback in the co-operative movement, which, according to weekly newspaper Moscow News, now accounts for about six per cent of all Soviet production.

Since 1985, when the movement first began to take shape, controversy has been growing over the role co-operatives should play in the Soviet economy.

Initially the enterprises — ranging from cafes and medical clinics to beauty salons and aerobics centres — were welcomed as a way of loosening the state's tight grip on production and increasing the range of goods offered to consumers.

But their popularity soon waned. In '88, they had been discredited by exorbitant prices and by widespread accusations of racketeering and black market dealings.

## Trade team for Kuwait

THE commercial section of the Royal Netherlands Embassy has announced a trade delegation from Netherlands will visit Kuwait during March 11-13, 1990.

The mission is organised by the Netherlands Council for Trade Promotion (NCP) and sponsored by the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The 17-member delegation consists of manufacturers and suppliers of a wide range of products.

The delegation will stay in the Kuwait Meridien Hotel, telephone 2455550.

Appointments with trade delegation can be arranged through the Commercial Section of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, telephone 5312652 — Adel Azziz or Frank Molten.

The prime rate was as high as 11.5 per cent last June, but has fallen since then, mainly because the rates that banks pay on certificates of deposit have declined. For example, rates on short-term Eurodollars, or US currency held in foreign accounts, have declined to between 8-1/4 and 8-1/2 from as high as 10 per cent in May.

Recent developments in US suggest that the Fed is unlikely to ease interest rates soon. The fourth quarter GNP report shows an economy that needs help. Despite the sluggish economy, inflation remains uncomfortably high, and officials must now confront a milder case of stagflation.

Rising interest rates abroad further complicate the process of policy making. With refunding approaching and many investors looking away from the United States, the Fed should be concerned about the size of capital flows from abroad. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

Another discount rate increase is expected, most likely in the first quarter.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

With production remaining at a high level, demand/supply conditions in the labour market remain tight, and the problem of scarce workers will become even more acute. This confirms the BOJ's expectations concerning further demand supply pressure ahead.

## EVENTS



## The Singapore Experience

By Diana Abou Haidar  
Arab Times staff

Guests of the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board and the Singapore Airlines enjoyed a real taste of this Asian Pacific Island at the SAS Tuesday night.

"The Singapore Experience" which was attended by 200 people,

featuring genuine Singapore cuisine by chefs flown in specially for the event, and traditional dances that depicted the people's hospitality, multi-racial culture and myths.

In a welcome speech, Othman Wok, board member of the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, said that Singapore has much to offer its West Asia friends and that its special attributes are well recognised. "For example, last year Singapore hotels clinched top honours in a poll

conducted among 1,500 business travellers from 52 countries by the London-based Business Travellers magazine... Another survey, in April 1989, revealed that Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, in Malaysia, are the least expensive of 10 major Asia-Pacific cities for tourists."

Wok added that the country offers value-for-money shopping, a year-round calendar of festivals, international sporting events and a clean green and safe environment.



## WHAT'S ON

## ARTS

## Handicrafts exhibition

FIFTY-SEVEN Kuwaiti artisans display handicrafts at the Kuwait Handicrafts Exhibition that was opened at the Regency Palace Hotel on Feb 24 by Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Interior Minister. A wide range of handicrafts, ranging from paintings to jewellery, will be displayed. Opening hours 8:30 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8:30 pm. All are welcome.

**Hobby Centre** FELTCRAFT as a medium for children to make pictures, flowers, toys etc. with felt. This new craft course will start February 27th and March 4th for 6 weeks for children from 8 years old. Tel: 5618847, 5317354.

**Seminar** THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacoal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tues-

day 11:00 - 12:30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6:00 - 7:30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah, Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

## SOCIAL

**Milk mahfil** A Milad mahfil has been organised by the Bandish Narya Chakra on Feb. 24, at 6:30 pm at the Bangladesh Embassy (Khaldya), to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Language Movement.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest. All Bangladeshis are cordially invited.

**Children's variety show** RANGDHANU, a children's variety show which includes a play, will be staged on March 1, Thursday at the Theatre Hall of Kuwait University Law Faculty, Shuaibkh campus, at 6:30 pm. For cards contact 4840759, 4312730, 4312280, 4733106 or 3729425.

## Robbie in the lobby

ROBBIE 2002 a remote control robot over 1.2 metre tall will be performing in the main lobby of the Kuwait International Hotel on 23rd, 24th and 25th February at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. It can greet, talk, rotate, bow backwards and forwards, tap dance and perform many other tricks to entertain children of all ages. It has made over 200 television appearances the most successful being the British TV Quiz show 32.1 having over 17 million viewers and was seen across the world. Tickets on sale now. KDI 1,000 per person. Tel: 2530000 ext 8040.

## II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Play Competition to be held in May 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaitees. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel. 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

**Canadian Women's League** AN invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this months meeting which will be held on Saturday March 3 from 4 to 6 pm in Qurtoba. For more information contact 2563025 or 2563867.

**Goan Welfare Society** MARCH 2 - Friday Goan Welfare Society meeting will be held at Ramada Salam Hotel on 2nd March at 10 am followed by a reception at 12 noon for the Goan football team who won the exhibition match recently in Kuwait Goa vs Kerala.



Rana Abdul Sattar.

## Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

**ACT's production of the Skin of Our Teeth** at UAS, Salwa, 8 pm, Feb 27, 28 and March 1. Directed by George Plautz. For reservations please call 5725071, 5731782.

## Ladies International League of Kuwait

JOIN us at our next meeting on Monday, March 5, at the Holiday Inn. Doors open at 3:30, programme at 4:30. Hope to see you ladies there. Door charge.

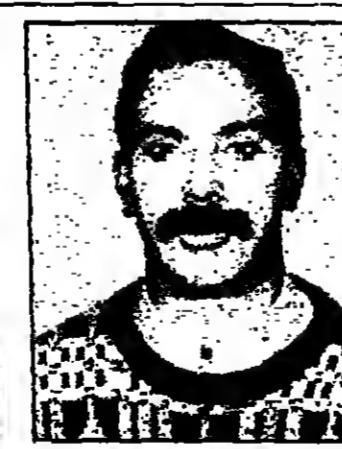
## Steps Ballet School

WE announce that we are now the official co-ordinators for the Royal Academy of Dancing, London. We invite any teachers of ballet here in Kuwait to contact us if they would like to enter any of their students for the Royal Academy of Dance Examinations which will be held this coming May 1990. Entries must be in by March 31.

Examinations will be held sometime in May for our own students, and outside students of other teachers are welcome to enter their children also. Please contact us on 5386481 from 9 to 12 noon only. In the afternoons, 5655216/8 ext 55, from 4 to 7 pm. (the examination session will be conducted by a visiting examiner from the Royal Academy of Dance, London, as is usual for Steps Ballet School RAD candidates.)

## Kuwait Welsh Society

ST. DAVID's Day buffet dinner Thursday, 1st March 1990 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For more information ring 3713467, 3912384, 5625316.



Niaz Abid.

## Spring Bazaar for Khalifa School

YOU are invited to an exquisite display of handicrafts and gift items on Thursday March 1, 1990 at Kuwait International Hotel's Old Failaka Room from 10 am to 7 pm. Of the products on display are Latin American rugs, silver, souvenirs, brassware, decoupage, ceramics and other works of art. All donations for the Khalifa School will go to the handicapped.

**Martyrs' Day: Shatadal Cultural Group**

FEB 27: Shatadal Cultural Group will be holding their Martyrs' Day at the Messilah Beach Hotel's Al Amal Hall at 6:30 pm on February 27. The programme includes a seminar, poems recitation and songs.

## Rainbow and Phillipine Youth Band performance

ON the occasion of Kuwait's National Day, the Rainbow Band and the Phillipine Youth Band will be performing at 4:00 to 7:00 pm on February 22 to February 25 at the Entertainment City-Doha.

## Ladies International League

LIL newcomers: A coffee morning will be held on Feb 26 at the Sheraton Hotel from 10 am to 12 noon. Newcomers to LIL and Kuwait will be most welcome. For further information please call Ann on 5316905.

## Craft Centre

MOTHERS are your hands too full with your tots on weekends? Here's a chance for you to relax and introduce them to creative art. For details contact 5635740, between 9 - 12 noon.

## Carnival Fiesta '90 - cancelled

YMCA Incredibile S.C. Regret to inform that their above function is cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances and the inconvenience caused is deeply regretted. Organisers.

## Bits 'n' Pieces

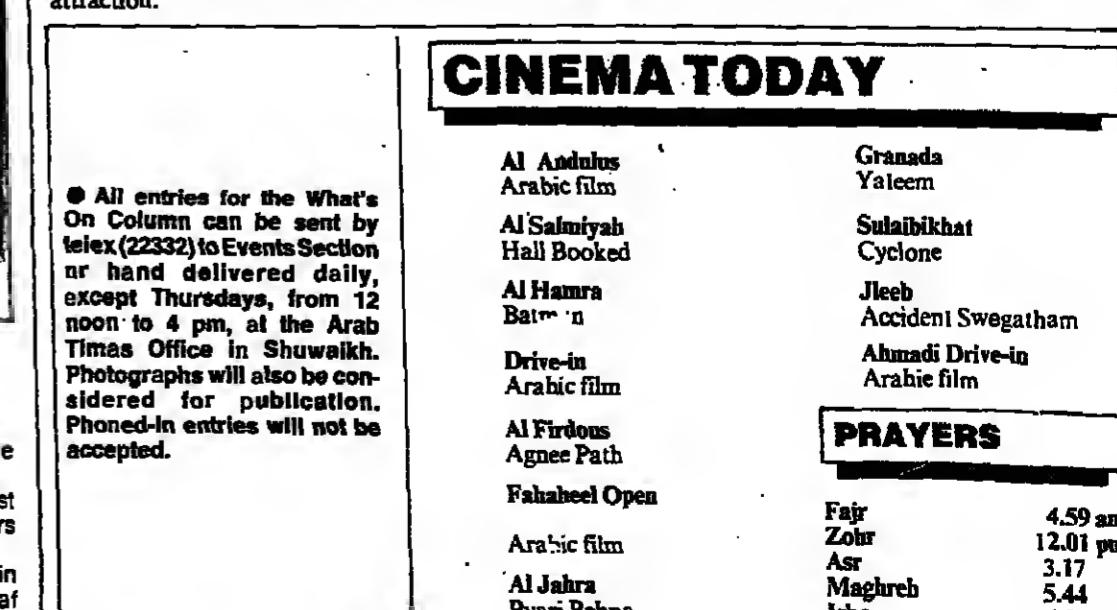
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

## ON



## UAS hold 6th annual carnival

CHILDREN with faces painted like clowns, stars, flowers or Ratman were among the over 1,500 Universal American School (UAS) students and parents who came to the UAS campus to enjoy the 6th annual Carnival. This year's festivities included 31 staff-run booths with games, food, and activities for fun-seekers of all ages. Participants won prizes for games such as pin the tail on the camel or riding the unrideable horse. For those more artistically inclined—or with a message to share—the T-shirt painting booth was a popular attraction.



## CINEMA TODAY

- All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuaibkh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

- Al Andalus Arabic film
- Al Salimiyah Hall Booked
- Al Hamra Barr 'n Drive-in Arabic film
- Al Firdous Agneet Path
- Fahheel Open Arabic film
- Al Jahra Pyari Behna

- Fair Zohr Asr Maghrib Isha
- 4:59 am 12:01 pm 3:17 5:44 6:01



## TELEVISION PROGRAMME

## KTV 1

- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.15 National Varieties
- 9.35 Habiba Wa Hammarat Al Qayla: Local play, starring Maryam Al Ghadban, Mohammed Al Saree, Munqith Al Saree, Tareq Al Ali, and Abdul Aziz Al Fahad

## 12.15 Informative Programme about Kuwaiti National Varieties

## 12.45 News summary

## 1.05 The World Today via Satellite

## 1.30 Lahalebo: Arabic feature film, starring Naceema Akef, Sulaiman Najeef, Shukri Sarhan and Hassan Faeq

## 3.30 Eidak Ya Watan: local programme which includes (1) Manarat Al Khaleej: local programme, prepared and Presented by Nervana Edrees, (2) Saham Al Fada: Cartoon Serial (3) Wa Qala Hakeem: Historical serial (4) Deewaniyat Shuaib Al Nabat: local programme

## 9.00 News in Arabic

## 9.45 National Varieties

## 10.30 Wa Tushreqo Al Kuwait: special informative film about the Kuwait's National Day

## 11.00 Local late night varieties with the Television Band for Popular Arts

## 12.30 News summary

- 12.35 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.50 Holy Quran and closedown

## KTV 2

- 5.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 5.10 The New Mickey Mouse Club: Awakening and how to arrange your bedroom... Romeo and Juliette... The newest man in the world...

## 6.00 A Children Movie: "Harry &amp; The Hendersons" While the Hendersons spending the holiday in the countryside they meet the "Big Foot" which looks like a gorilla and they were obliged to take it back with them...

## 8.00 News in English

## 8.30 Documentary Information Programme

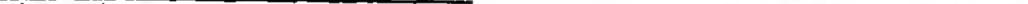
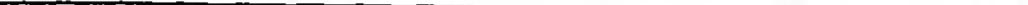
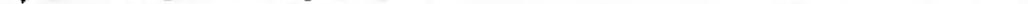
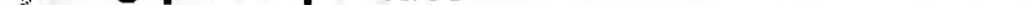
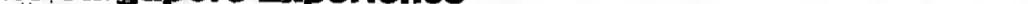
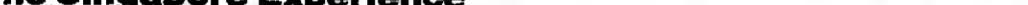
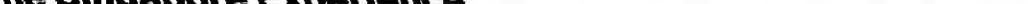
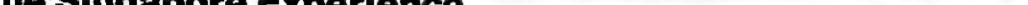
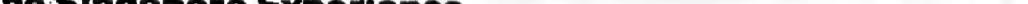
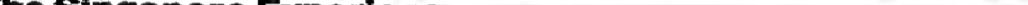
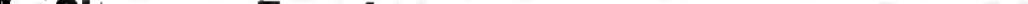
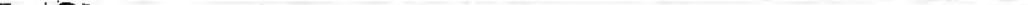
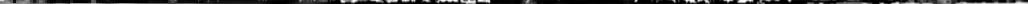
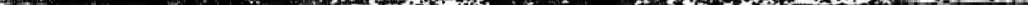
## 9.00 The Midnight Caller: Jack Killian's friend is involved with a drug trafficker and Jack has to help him get rid of such involvement...

## 10.00 Coach: "I am in Love" Kelly, the daughter of "Hyden" introduces her father to a stage player...

## 10.30 Bestseller: "Final Days" The last days of Richard Nixon during Watergate scandal where the President has to decide either to resign or to face a trial...

## 12.00 News in Brief

## 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite



## BLONDIE — By Dean Young &amp; Stan Drake



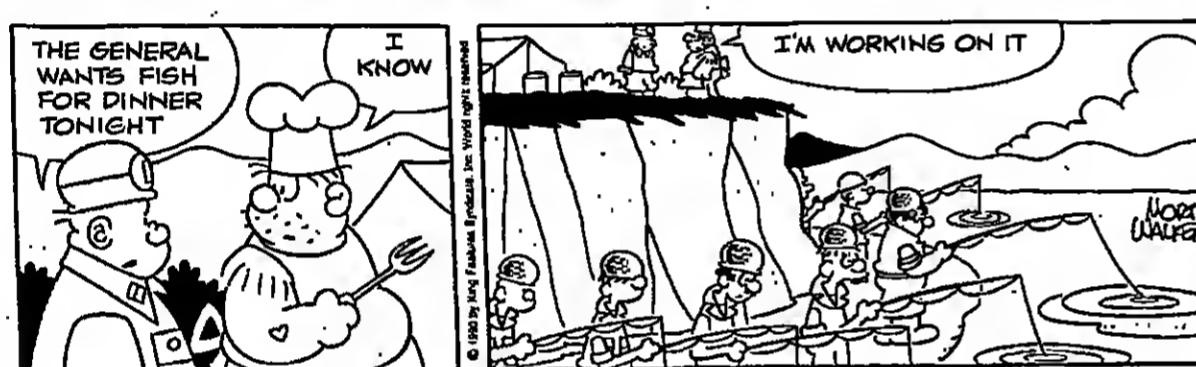
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — by Dik Browne



## AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



## BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



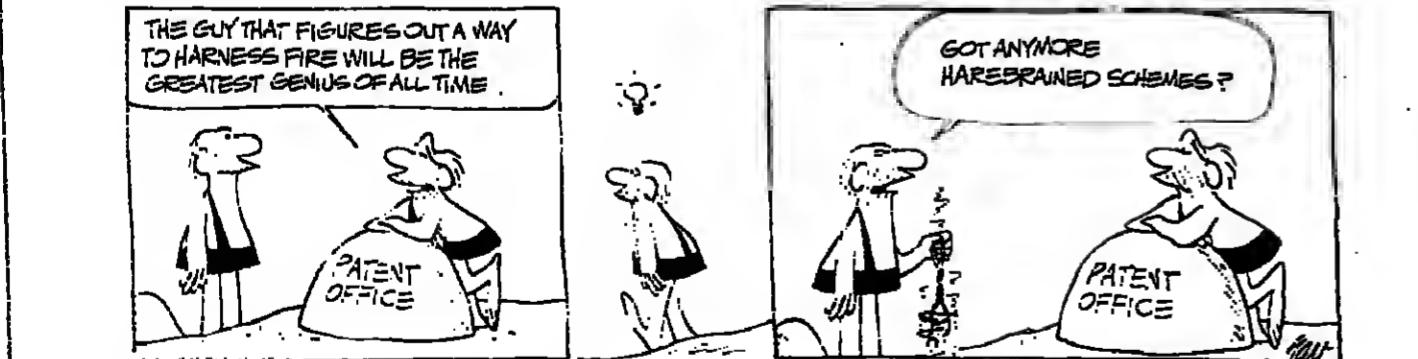
## THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brian Parker &amp; Johnny Hart



## ANDY CAPP



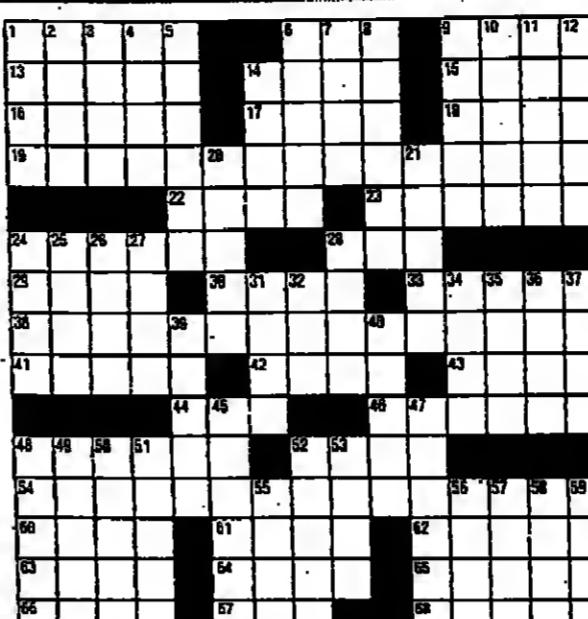
## B.C. — By Johnny Hart



## HE-MAN — By G. Forton &amp; J. Shull



## TODAY'S CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

1 Lucifer  
6 Aves.  
9 Syrup sources  
13 Hippodrome  
14 Bartender's measure  
15 Downwind  
16 Meager  
17 Decant  
18 Indolent  
19 Is a kind and generous person  
22 Chip in chips  
23 Cute creatures from Down Under  
24 Forty  
28 Precedes capita or se  
29 Nemakas of a Stowe heroine  
30 Famous nom de plume  
33 Students' hurdles  
38 Complete surprise  
41 Badger  
42 Graf —  
43 First-rate  
44 Jenny  
46 Drying frame  
48 Confront  
52 Insult  
54 Having: inherited exalted status  
60 City on the Skunk  
61 Peruse  
62 Removes rind  
63 Pintail duck  
64 Fitzgerald or Raines  
65 Group of three  
66 Biblical verb  
67 Prepare the table  
68 Author of "Love Story"

## DOWN

1 Waist cincher  
2 Ancient chest  
3 Receptions  
4 — and the King of Slam  
5 Hale, the 1776 hero  
6 Dinah from Tennessee  
7 Race track figure  
8 Row at a set pace  
9 Russian envelope  
10 Organic compound  
11 Alexander the Great's birthplace  
12 Banks competitors  
13 Blazer  
20 East or West follower  
21 Mozart's was music  
24 Liability  
25 Revelry cry of old  
26 Former White House  
59 Donkey, in Dortmund

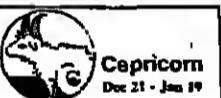
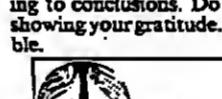
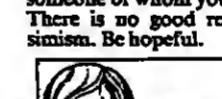
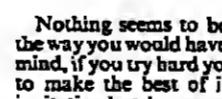
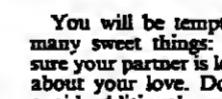
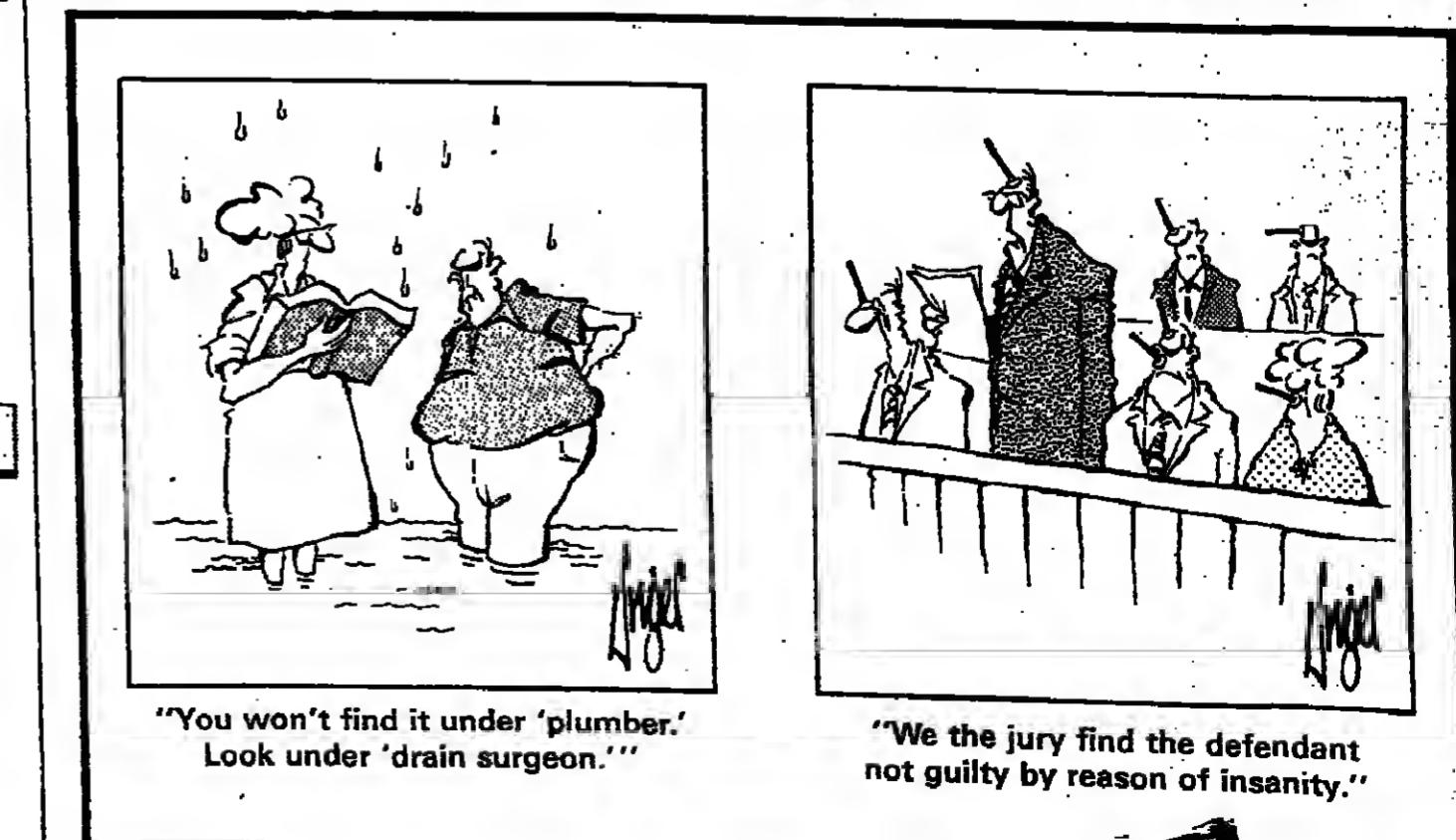
## pet Superlative endings

28 It can be chopped liver  
31 Deprivation  
32 Brat  
34 Abba of Israel  
35 Token taker  
36 Broadway's Tommy  
37 Palmist  
39 Banquet  
40 Ticked off  
45 Mall sites  
47 Exploses  
48 Discourtesy  
49 Punctuation mark  
50 Manitoba Indians  
51 Beginning  
52 Ten Commandments verb  
53 Helen's mother  
55 Part of TV  
56 Unusual  
57 Prudish one  
58 Town S of Oviedo, Spain  
59 Donkey, in Dortmund

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

OHARE BROW BERG  
MDRAN RAIMA ELAM  
AVAST ASOR AONE  
REPAIR RSHOP UPON  
RISE EATEN  
SAPPED REDDY  
PLEA GEST ESTES  
AMASSEO TOSHAME  
SETTO GAEL OMIT  
RIDES IMPELIS  
STYLE CAVE  
APIS BARBERSHOP  
WITH ARIA CAIRO  
ECHO TABS ELLEN  
DEEP ELEE DELLIS

## YOUR STARS

Aries  
March 21 - April 19Cancer  
June 21 - July 22Libra  
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22Capricorn  
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19Taurus  
April 21 - May 20Leo  
July 23 - Aug. 22Scorpio  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22Aquarius  
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18Gemini  
May 21 - June 20Virgo  
Aug. 22 - Sept. 21Sagittarius  
Nov. 23 - Dec. 22Pisces  
Feb. 19 - March 20

"You won't find it under 'plumber'. Look under 'drain surgeon.'"

"We the jury find the defendant not guilty by reason of insanity."

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

## THE MIND OF THE EXPERT

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A J 10 9 2

♥ J 3 2

♦ K J 10

♦ Q 8

WEST

♦ 8 3

♦ Void

♦ Q 10 9 8 6 4

♦ 8 5 4

♦ AKJ 6 5 4 3 ♦ 2

SOUTH

♦ K Q 7 6 5

♦ A K 7 5

♦ A 7

♦ 10 7

The bidding:  
South West North East

1 ♠ 5 ♠ 5 ♠ Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ?

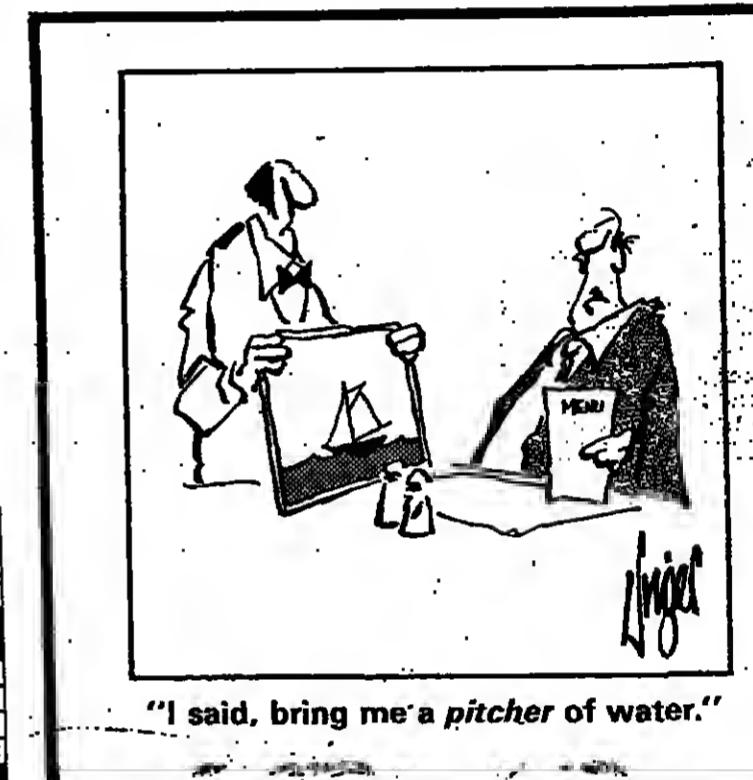
We are indebted for this hand to *Bridge Today* (six issues per year, \$21. Available from Bridge Today, 18 Village View Bluff, Ballston Lake, N.Y. 12019). It was played during a charity tournament in Montreal.

Sitting West was Bob Richman, formerly of Cleveland and now one of the top players in Australia. Never shy in the bidding, he made a

full-blooded five-club preempt over South's one-spade opening bid. When the auction got back to him it was at six spades and that became the final contract.

Now the mind of the expert took over. Richman was sure that, given South's confident slam bid, two rounds of clubs would "never" go through. It seemed the best chance to defeat six spades lay in scoring one club trick and a heart ruff. But to manage that East would have to have an entry. Since it was surely not a fast entry, what then?

Richman had seen this situation many times in newspaper columns and books. He would underlead his ace-king of clubs! To suggest the heart return, he carefully selected the nine of clubs as his opening lead. Declarer, Martin Caley of Montreal, carefully played dummy's queen to the first trick and was only mildly surprised when it held the trick. He drew trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy, ran the jack of diamonds, crossed to the ace of diamonds and reentered dummy with a trump to take a club discard on the king of diamonds. Declarer claimed his slam, conceding only a heart trick. Easy.



"I said, bring me a pitcher of water."

Arab Times

# ARAB TIMES Classifieds

## JOB OPPORTUNITY

Required 5 heavy duty mechanics and one auto electrician  
For a new equipment maintenance company.  
Minimum previous experience 5 years in similar field.  
English language preferable.  
Must have transferable residences.  
If interested, please send your C.V. to the following address:  
K.I.M.E.C. Co., W.L.L.  
P.O. Box 26546, Safat, 13126 Kuwait  
Tel: 2428346  
2422426

**TAXI**  
**AL-WEHDA**  
**TAXI ON CALL**  
**24 HOURS**  
**SERVICE**

2666673  
2666593  
2666674  
2666694

**Boodai Cargo**  
Clearly the  
better choice...

With a team  
of professionals

**BOODAI CARGO**  
Tel: 4817708-4847937-4837650  
Fax: 30157 BACARGO, Tel: 4837651

Al-Ramal Establishment for  
Teaching Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy.  
Discount on the courses (5-15%) starts from 19th Feb, to  
3rd March, 90.  
Courses start on 3rd March, 90.  
Monthly payment facilities.  
Superiorly equipped beauty  
section directed by qualified  
hairdressers and beauty therapists.  
Al-Jebriya  
Tel: 8323677/88  
8 am - 1:30 pm 3 - 8 pm.

## FOR RENT

Villas, half villas and  
flats with swimming  
pool

Tel: 2401906 - 2407677  
2451489 - 2451476  
FAX 2403260  
The All Real Estate

النقيب وخطار  
Al-Naqeeb & Khattar

**IBA KAMI KAPAG**  
**CARGO ANG**  
**PINAG - USAPAN**  
**DOOR TO DOOR**  
**PHILIPPINES**

484-6009

**Al Ibrahim**  
**Taxi**  
Tel. 2400013,  
2400014, 2400015

Farwaniya branch  
Tel. 4745600,  
4745900

**ADVERTISE**  
**IN THE**  
**ARAB TIMES**  
**FOR**  
**BETTER**  
**RESULTS**

**FOR RENT**

شركة النقيب وخطار  
Al-Naqeeb & Khattar Co. W.L.L.

**AIRFREIGHT IT!**

**484-6009**

**FOR PACKING &**  
**FORWARDING**  
BY AIR ALL OVER THE WORLD

CONTACT: **AL-SAWAN CO.**

SPECIAL SHIPPING SERVICE TO  
BOMBAY, COLOMBO, COCHIN,  
MADRAS & MANGALORE.

**DOOR TO DOOR**  
**SERVICE TO** **MANILA**

SHUWAIKH 27 4737723, 4734960, 4737983, 4740886.

CITY 2433356, 2413740 FAHAHEEL 23927885

**FOR RENT**

Villas, half villas,  
flats, complete  
buildings, offices in  
all areas in Kuwait  
with or without  
swimming pool

Qatar Real Estate  
Tele. 2406592,  
2406593

**ACCOMMODATION**

For Rent

AMMAN Street, near Madrasa  
Sindibad, 2 bedroom flat with or  
without furniture. Rent KD110,  
Tele. Mr. Chatha, 4812386 off,  
5614689 Res.

(AT5-51623-3)

KEIFAN, Area 4, Muna Street,  
House No. 7, beside the Co-  
operative branch. Muheq with 2  
bedrooms, Kitchen and bath-  
room. Tele. 4831178.

(AT5-HUS-3)

SHARQ, behind the fire brigade, 4  
bedroom apartment, available  
from March. Rent KD170. Tele.  
2419327, upto 8 pm.

(AT5-51604-3)

SHARQ, near the bus stop.  
Spacious room with or without  
meals for 2 bachelors or working  
girls. Tele Mrs Jaffer, 2453924, 8  
am - 1:30 pm, 6 - 8:30 pm.

(AT5-51601-3)

MAIDAN Hawalli, Accommodation  
with tele. facilities for Mā-  
garorean bachelors to share with  
a family. Tele. Nobee, 5642176,  
after 12:30 pm.

(AT5-51644-2)

MAIDAN Hawalli, near the Union  
Hall. One room with telephone  
facilities for 1 or 2 bachelors to  
share with a Goat family. Rent  
KD 55. Tele 5635632, after 3 pm.

(AT5-51640-3)

Available

NUGRA, Khaldoon Street, one  
room, furnished, with tele.  
facilities, for one or two bachelors  
to share with an Indian family.  
Rent KD80. Tele. Oberoi,  
4740801, 2646645, res.

(AT5-51628-3)

**For your**  
**advertisement**

Please contact  
Advertising  
Department



**ARAB TIMES**  
**CLASSIFIEDS COUPON**

2 insertions KD 4. Three insertions KD 5

Conditions:

1. Advertisements may be mailed in only on this coupon, or  
preferably, completed at the Arab Times office between 8:30 a.m.  
- 1 p.m. and 4:30 - 6 p.m.

2. To complete the coupon, follow the sequence of the information  
given in above printed advertisements, for desired section  
heading. All advertisements will be printed according to Arab  
Times format and are subject to editing.

3. Advertisements must not exceed 25 words including name  
and telephone number.

4. Text must be typed or clearly printed. No alterations or  
cancellations will be made after publication.

5. Advertisements of personal nature involving business trans-  
actions will not be accepted, nor any matrimonial adver-  
tisements.

6. The Arab Times is not responsible for postal delays.

Section heading .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

&lt;p

## Kasparov, Gelfand unbeaten

LINARES, Spain, Feb 24, (Reuter): World champion Garry Kasparov and young fellow-Soviet Boris Gelfand remained undefeated yesterday after the fifth round of the Linares Chess Tournament, the only players not to have lost a game.

Kasparov with the black pieces beat Artur Yusupov, also of the Soviet Union, in 60 moves and six hours of play while Gelfand, a 22-year-old student, disposed of the United States' Boris Gulko in 44 moves in a queen's gambit.

Britain's Nigel Short won against Spanish grand master Miguel Illescas in 63 moves with a Sicilian defence.

Former world champion Boris Spassky, a Soviet exile playing for France, drew against Valery Salov of the Soviet Union in 34 moves in a queen's Indian defence.

Other results yesterday:

Vassily Ivanchuk (Soviet Union) beat Ljubomir Ljubolevic (Yugoslavia)

Alexander Beliavsky (Soviet Union) defeated Lajos Portisch (Hungary)

Standings after the fifth round: Kasparov and Gelfand 4-1/2 points, Ivanchuk 3-1/2, Yusupov three, Short and Salov 2-1/2, one adjourned game each, Gulko and Beliavsky two, Illescas and Spassky 1-1/2 and Ljubolevic 1/2.



Seles: overcame Shriver

## Navratilova brushes aside Smith

# Seles holds on to edge Shriver

WASHINGTON, Feb 24, (UPI): Martina Navratilova in the \$35,000 Virginia Slims of Washington.

Third-seeded Seles, the 16-year-old Yugoslav who lives in Sarasota, Fla., beat seventh seed Shriver 6-2, 7-6 (7-5) to set up this evening's match against Navratilova, who defeated unseeded Anna Smith 6-4, 6-2, while surrendering just two points off her serve in the second set.

The other semifinal will pit second seed Garrison against fourth seed Natalia Zvereva. Garrison, ranked fourth in the world, beat France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-0, 7-6, (7-4), and Zvereva, the 18-year-old Soviet, battled back to beat Australia's Nicole Provis 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Seles kept the veteran Shriver at bay with powerful ground strokes and brilliant service returns in winning the first set and taking a 5-2 lead in the second set. But down two breaks, Shriver broke back in the eighth game, fought off a match point in holding serve in the ninth game and broke Seles again in the 10th game after staving off another three match points.

Shriver led 5-4 in the tiebreaker, but Seles won the match with a service winner and consecutive passing shots.

Seles confessed to a case of nerves that contributed to squandering four match points.

"Going into the match I was a little scared because it was the first time I played Pam," Seles said. "I had so many match points and always on the match points I was just chicken. I couldn't hit the ball, I was so scared. My hands were shaking and I don't know why."

Shriver said Seles "kind of gaged me on two match points. She tried a dumb drop shot, then she missed a shot wide. Up until then, she wasn't making any mistakes at all. She's going to run hot and cold. The way she plays, that's going to be a pattern."

Seles was playing her first match of the tournament after receiving a first-round bye and advancing by walkover against Stacey Martio in the second round. She reached the semifinals here last year only to default with an ankle injury.

Navratilova won the battle of serve-and-volley players to improve her record to 19-1 against Dallas native Smith, the one setback coming in 1980 in an injury default.

Navratilova struggled with

her serve in the first set, staving off break points in the first and fifth games before suffering a service break in the ninth game. But Navratilova broke Smith twice in the set, including in the final game.

Navratilova had better success with her serve in the second set, allowing just two points on her serve in the set while breaking Smith twice.

Trailing 3-2 in the second set, Zvereva won the next six games and broke Provis three times in the final set to secure the victory. Zvereva has won all three meetings against Provis.

Garrison, of Houston, won the first eight games of the match and led 5-1 in the second set before Tauziat recorded three service breaks in succession to tie the tiebreaker.

In Oklahoma City, top-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland defeated Etsuko Inoue of Japan, 6-2, 6-0 yesterday in the Virginia Slims of Oklahoma tennis tournament being played at the Green County Club.

In other quarterfinal singles matches, third-seeded Amy Frazier of the United States defeated No. 6 Anne Minter of Australia, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5), and American Angelica Gavaldon defeated Brenda Schuit of the Netherlands, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

## Jennings first in fast 3,000 metres

### Scott feels cheated

NEW YORK, Feb 24, (Reuter): Lynn Jennings used a brilliant late burst of speed to win the 3,000 metres in US record time and lead two other women in under the old mark yesterday at the US National Indoor Athletics Championships.

Jennings, who had bided her time behind front-running Patrice Plumer and Vicki Huber, accelerated past Huber midway through the last lap to win in eight minutes 40.45 seconds.

Plumer also overtook Huber at the end to finish one second behind Jennings, with Huber third in 8:42.13.

The old US mark was 8:44.05 set by Lesley Lahane in 1987. The world best belongs to Elly van Hulst of the Netherlands who clocked 8:33.82 in Budapest last year.

"The record is a by-product of great personnel," said Jennings. "With the type of people on the track, I knew the record would fall."

Plumer said the result vindicated US distance running "because we've been beaten up a lot by the Romanians and now we finally beat them up."

Romanians Margareta Keszei and Viorica Ghican finished fourth and sixth, respectively.

The championships, which completed an 11-meet indoor Grand Prix season, were bereft of many big names. Greg Foster, Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Evelyn Ashford and Butch Reynolds were among the missing.

Attendance, as well as competition, suffered. The crowd at Madison Square Garden was announced as 11,849 but it appeared that perhaps only half that many were on hand.

It was a happy night, however, for Lavonna Martin and Doug Padilla, who won their events to clinch the overall points titles for the circuit and a total bonus of \$15,200 each.

Martin, 23, squeezed to victory in the 55-metre hurdles by one-hundredth of a second ahead of Lynda Tolbert in a tight race that had all six runners in contention. Martin timed 7.44 in posting her sixth Grand Prix win of the season.

"I couldn't be sure at the finish. My lean at the tape helped me a lot," Martin said.

"This sets me up for outdoors. It gives me a whole lot of confidence," said Martin, whose superb season included three consecutive wins over double Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersee.

Padilla, the US indoor record holder at both two miles and 5,000 metres, charged into the lead with two laps left to win the 3,000 metres in 7:50.27.

It's been the best indoor season I've had," said Padilla who won five of eight indoor races from the mile to the 5-km.

Diane Dixon won the women's 400 for her ninth national indoor title — the most ever by a woman.

The most thrilling, and controversial, finish of the meet came in the mile.

Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland, the two-time world indoor 1,500 metres champion, and American



Marcus O'Sullivan

mile record holder Steve Scott finished in a dead heat to share first place in the mile in 3:57.35.

O'Sullivan had a charge by Scott midway through the final lap and looked on his way to victory. But Scott summoned one last surge and caught O'Sullivan at the tape.

Scott, believing the victory was his, raised his arms to the crowd and took a victory lap. But the American was joined by O'Sullivan on the winner's stand after the judges viewed a photo of the finish.

"From my view, Scott did hit the tape ahead of me," O'Sullivan said. "But the tape is six inches or so past the finish line."

The dead heat bruised

more than just Scott's ego — it also hit in his wallet. An outright victory would have moved Scott ahead of O'Sullivan in the season's final points standings and yielded him an extra \$2,000.

"I just assumed the tape is directly over the finish timer. I thought the tape and the line were the same," Scott said.

"In most cases there is a string

on the tape so that the string is activated for the finish. That it wasn't past the fault of TAG," he said, placing blame on the Athletics Congress, the US governing body for athletics.

■ American Eddie Hart, the former co-holder of the 100-metres world record, was foiled again — this time in his own haste to beat the clock.

Hart, a 100-metres favourite at the 1972 Munich Games who lost his chance at Olympic glory when he misread the schedule and missed his preliminary heat, was making a comeback at the age of 40 in the 55 metres world record, was foiled again — this time in his own haste to beat the clock.

This time Hart was too fast for his heat, but failed to post a time as he was disqualified after two false starts.

## Sampras stuns Mayotte

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 24, (Reuter): The expected form continued to crumble at the \$1 million US Pro Indoor Tennis Tournament yesterday as two-time champion Tim Mayotte and fellow Americans Jay Berger and Jim Courier became the latest upset victims.

The fifth-seeded Mayotte, who had reached the final here for the past four years, lost his fourth match in five meetings to 13th-seeded American Pete Sampras 6-4 6-6 6-3.

Unseeded qualifier Mark Kratzmann of Australia, ranked 122, reached the semifinals with a stunning upset of the hard-hitting, eighth-seeded Courier, who had hoped to break into the world's top-20 with a strong showing here.

Kratzmann won a tense third set tiebreak 9-7 to finish off Courier 4-6 6-3 7-6 and set up a semifinal meeting with Sampras.

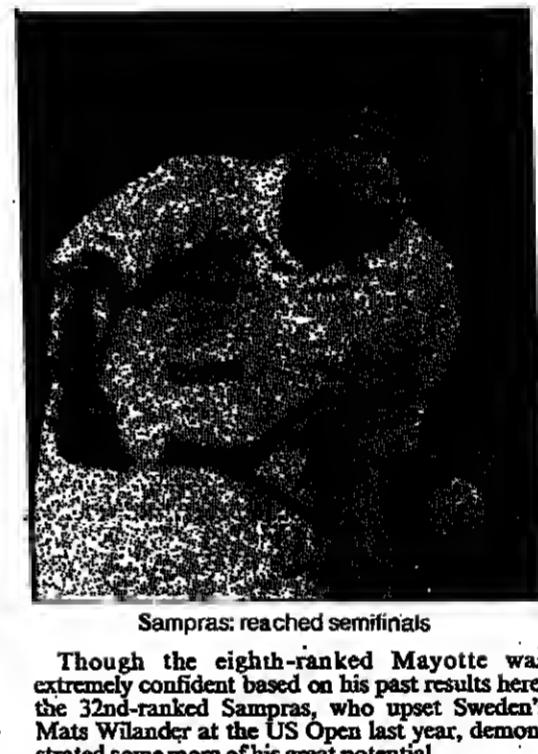
In the night's final match, fourth-seeded Berger fell to 53rd-ranked Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia 7-6 6-1.

The tournament's top three seeds, John McEnroe, Brad Gilbert and Andre Agassi, all failed to reach the quarterfinals.

Andres Gomez of Ecuador, seeded seventh, was the only player to avoid being upset yesterday as he narrowly defeated Paul Haarsma of the Netherlands 7-6 6-7 6-4. Gomez was to play Korda in this evening's other semifinal.

The 22-year-old Korda, who reached the quarterfinals last week in Toronto, totally dominated the 10th-ranked Berger after winning the first set tiebreak 7-5.

"I was hitting very good balls," Korda said. "He didn't look like a top-10 player and I hit a lot of perfect winners."



Sampras: reached semifinals

Though the eighth-ranked Mayotte was extremely confident based on his past results here, the 32nd-ranked Sampras, who upset Sweden's Mats Wilander at the US Open last year, demonstrated some more of his great potential.

The left-handed Kratzmann, who played three qualifying matches to reach the main draw, became just the third qualifier in nine years to reach the semifinals of this event.

## Allen maintains lead

PACIFIC PALISADES, California, Feb 24, (Reuter): American Mike Allen established a 36-hole course record yesterday and held a one-stroke lead at the halfway point of the \$1 million Los Angeles Open golf tournament.

Allen, in his first year on the US Tour after playing in Europe for the past four years, stood at 11-under-par 131 to stay one stroke ahead of Rocca, Mediate and in front of the quartet of Tony Sills, Peter Jacobsen, Gil Morgan and former Masters champion Craig Stadler.

Allen added a bogey-free three-under-par 68 to his opening-round eight-under-63 to break the 36-hole Riviera Country Club mark of 132 set by Hal Sutton and Gary Koch in 1985.

"I'm not sure I've ever played 36 holes without a bogey before," Allen said. "I think I played every bit as well today as I did yesterday, but I didn't make the putts."

"I feel very confident in what I'm doing. I'm in a groove," added the 1989 Scottish Open champion.

■ In Ewa Beach, Hawaii, Beth Daniel, who began the day two shots down, fired a five-under-par 67 to move into a two-stroke lead after the second round of the Hawaiian Open golf tournament yesterday.

Daniel, who posted a 71 in the first round, parred the first three holes before making her move on overnight leaders Patty Sheehan, Elaine Crosby and Cindy Gerring.

She birdied the fourth and fifth and, after a temporary setback with a bogey at number eight, she birdied four straight from the 14th to stand at six-under-par 138.

■ And in Hong Kong, rain forced the cancellation of third round play in the Hong Kong Open tournament today.

Organisers said the \$200,000 event, the second on the 10-leg Asian circuit, would be decided over 34 holes. The final round will be played tomorrow.

## Lendl going to Prague after 6 years

STUTTGART, West Germany, Feb 24, (AP): Ivan Lendl plans to travel overland when he returns to Czechoslovakia next week for the first time since 1984 to play in an exhibition match for a children's charity.

Lendl plans to take a six-hour car ride to Prague on Monday rather than fly, so he can visit friends and relatives along the way.

Fourteen thousand fans have paid between 100 and 150 crowns — 10 times the cost of a movie ticket — to watch the Connecticut-based top-ranked tennis players face Czechoslovak Davis Cup star Miloslav Mezir Tuesday evening.

"I don't know what to expect," Lendl said yesterday of his return to his native land. "I don't want to put my expectations too high because I don't want to be too disappointed."

Lendl plans to take a six-hour car ride to Prague on Monday rather than fly, so he can visit friends and relatives along the way.

■ Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland, the two-time world indoor 1,500 metres champion, and American

## New McLaren car unveiled

The Honda Marlboro McLaren Formula One team unveiled its latest type MP 4/5B car on Thursday in London. Ayrton Senna (left) and Gerhard Berger will be using this car in the 1990 Formula One World Championships. (Reuter wirephoto)

Germany's women winners. The East German women defeated Britain 79-1/2 to 46-1/2 for their 10th consecutive indoor triumph in the series.

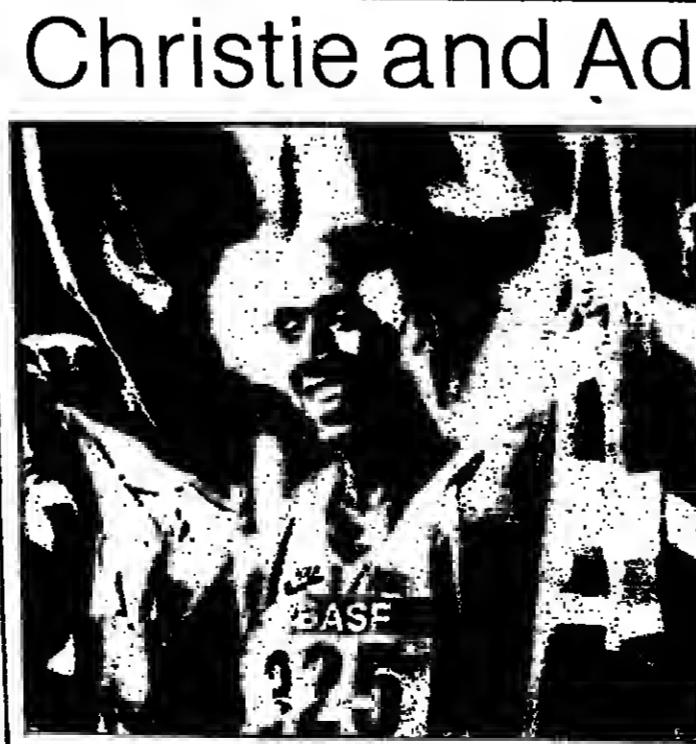
World indoor champion Christine Wachter defeated East German compatriot Sigrun Wodars, an Olympic and world champion, by two-hundredths of a second to capture the 800 metres in 2:02.49.

Despite their success, Christie and Adam said they were disappointed with their times and thought the track prevented them from better results.

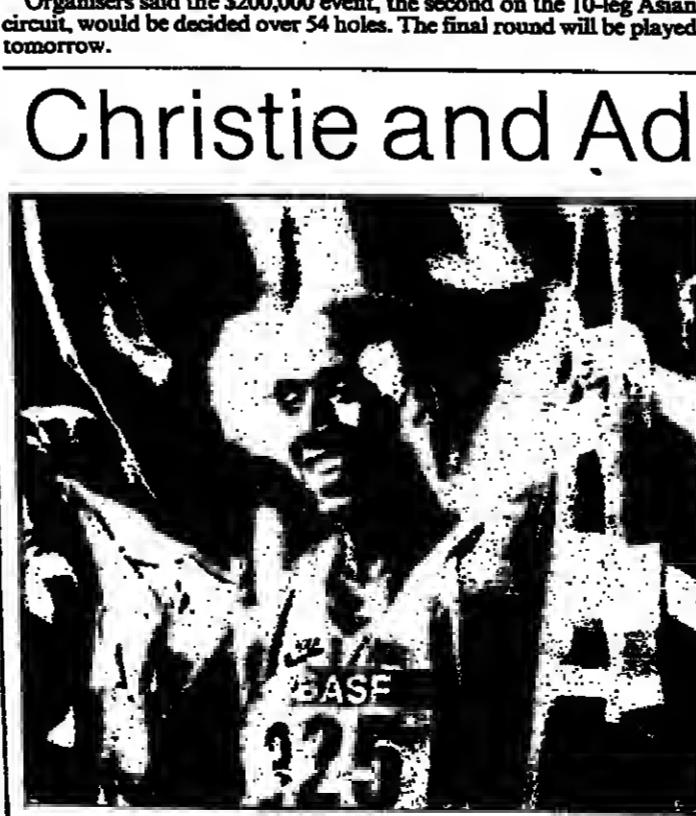
"I didn't think it went too well," Christie said after the 50-metre dash. "I was running hard but the track is slow. It's too soft, thought it's better than last year."

Some East German runners agreed that the track, which will host the European Indoor Track and Field Championships next weekend, was too soft. The Kelvin Hall Arena has been overhauled in the past year and a fifth lane added to the track for the European Championships.

Few records were threatened during the meet but Mark Easton set a British record of 20.01.65 while finishing second in the 50-metre walk. The winner of the event was East German Axel Noack in 18:56.27, the fastest time ever in the event on a British track.



Christie: 1st in 60m, 2nd in 200m



GLASGOW, Scotland, Feb 24, (AP): Linford Christie and Marcus Adam dominated the sprint events yesterday to lead the British men's track team to its first indoor victory ever against East Germany.

The East German women however, maintained their winning record against Britain.

Christie, the silver medallist in the 100 metres at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, won the 60-metre dash in 6.61 seconds. Adam edged Christie in a photo finish to win the 200 metres in 20.97 seconds, the time Christie also finished in.</p



